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## Passports for pets within two years

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S 100-year-old quarantine rules, the toughest in the world, are to be scrapped within two years for animals imported from rabies-free countries.

Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, is ready to announce before Easter a move to a system of "passports for pets," which identify animals by microchip and vaccine record. The checks could even be piled at one or two ports before the end of the year.

Eurotunnel has offered to set up a control centre at Calais, on the French side of the Channel, and officials from the Agriculture Ministry are to visit the site soon.

The change will bring particular joy to diplomatic and service families as well as to

start negotiations with the Irish Government; without its agreement it is possible that anti-rabies controls, would have to be maintained in Northern Ireland and residents there would not be able to have pet passports.

The switch to pet passports is to be accompanied by a campaign highlighting pet owners' new responsibilities.

Mr Brown wants to implement the change to curb the smuggling of pets into Britain by owners who cannot afford the cost or disapprove of confinement in quarantine. Officially there have been 800 animal-smuggling cases in the past ten years, but the Government believes thousands of owners are escaping detection.

Tony Blair is backing the change and is keen for Mr Brown to speed up its implementation, but John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, last week raised questions. It is understood he is concerned that the new controls will place extra burdens on airports and ferry companies.

Mr Brown, however, believes he can convince his Cabinet colleagues that the move is a sensible one, especially after the scientific case in favour of the microchip and vaccine was backed by an independent report to the Government by Professor Ian Kennedy, of University College London.

That report suggested that it would take three years to end quarantine and introduce passports, but Mr Brown believes that at most two years are needed to implement the change and to ensure that veterinary inspectors receive adequate training.

The move to pet passports can be achieved without primary legislation and Mr Brown is keen to push through an amendment to the Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and other Mammals) Order, 1974.

A three-month public consultation on the issue has found that 90 per cent of submissions favour the proposed scheme.

Last night, however, Lady Fretwell, chairman of Passports for Pets, which has 10,000 members, made clear that she would not be satisfied with another two-year wait. "We are desperate to hear news from Mr Brown," she said. "But if it is two years, we shall step up the fight."

"There is no justification for locking up another 18,000 animals over two years. When the tests are safe, and proven to be so, it would be morally disgraceful to go on locking up these cats and dogs."

More than 5,000 dogs and 3,000 cats are confined to quarantine every year; 1,200 animals have died in quarantine kennels in the past ten years.



The round-the-world ballooners, Bertrand Piccard (left) and Brian Jones, are welcomed by their back-up team after a successful landing in the Egyptian desert yesterday

## Balloonists bounce into the record books

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

THE spirit of William Boot was alive and well in Egypt yesterday as newsmen and the Breitling rescue team raced to find the two record-breaking balloonists at their remote landing spot in the inhospitable Western Desert more than 350 miles from Cairo.

Undeterred by the fact that the Persian conqueror Cambyses managed to lose an entire army of 50,000 men in the neighbouring sands in 524BC, the hacks and the technical experts set out in a fleet of four-wheel-drive vehicles, at least one private plane

and even an Egyptian military aircraft which charged its passengers \$1,000 (£615) for a window seat.

Buffeting winds and an impending sandstorm around the Pyramids at Giza destroyed the long-held dream of the British balloonist, the former caterer Brian Jones, of landing among the tombs of the Pharaohs. Instead, the 9-tonne balloon bounced down 44 miles west of a fly-blown oasis town called Mot (pronounced Moot), an ancient Roman outpost which stood on an African trade route at the time of Nero.

Perhaps with the advantage of the whole area being full of military installations, it was an Egyptian mili-

tary helicopter which eventually flew the two men to Cairo.

"They touched down very gently," said Don Cameron, whose Bristol-based company manufactured the balloon. "They were very close to empty on fuel. They had to land today. There was no question of going another night. It was very tight."

The balloonists originally tried to land on a desert road but as they were coming down, ice fell off the balloon and it rose, bouncing once more before coming to rest on soft sand about 15 miles from the road in a featureless moonscape where day temperatures often rise to 120°F (49°C) or more.

Describing the landing, the flight controller Alan Noble said: "It landed at 6am GMT. We were with them. They made three attempts. We gave them five out of ten for the first attempt, seven out of ten for the second and ten out of ten for the third. The balloon was undamaged."

In addition to the difficulties of the terrain, the press pursuers and the would-be rescuers had to face Egypt's notorious red tape which strangled efforts by Fleet Street's finest to hire a giant helicopter on offer from an adventurous Egyptian pilot in Port Said.

Mr Noble, assisted by his battery of computers, was first on the scene. but was unable to land near the deflating balloon (a two-hour process) and put down on a strip at the oasis of Dakhla.

A Swiss camera crew who had been close to the project alleged that the Egyptians had scuppered their efforts to be on the spot to film the spectacular landing.

Reports reaching Cairo claimed that a four-wheeler, manned by a team from one tabloid newspaper, managed to get within ten miles of the landing site, only to run out of fuel and need rescuing themselves.

Eagle has landed, pages 4, 5  
Leading article, page 21



many expatriates living on the Continent.

The change will mean that for £150 a year plus £60 a year for follow-up vaccines and checks, owners will be able to take their pets on holiday to destinations in Europe, New Zealand and Australia. The border check is expected to cost about £20.25 per animal.

Animals will also have to be checked by a veterinary surgeon 24 hours before re-entering Britain and to be treated for ticks and de-fused.

The present cost of six months' quarantine varies between £1,500 and £2,000, but the law will remain in force for animals coming from Eastern Europe, Africa, Asia and South America.

The Ministry of Agriculture is still analysing the position on North America and Canada and ministers intend to

### Ernie Wise dies aged 73

Ernie Wise, 73, who with Eric Morecambe became one of Britain's most popular comedy teams, died yesterday in a Berkshire hospital two months after a heart bypass. Page 3  
Obituary, page 23

### Millionaire fights euro

Paul Sykes, who formed the Democracy Movement at the end of last year, is selling large chunks of his £325 million business empire to oppose the euro and save sterling. Page 8

### Mussolini plot cover-up

A plot to kill Mussolini masterminded by a London businessman was covered up because of his friendship with Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald. Page 6

## Milosevic gets last chance to halt conflict in Kosovo

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

WITH Serb forces pounding rebel positions in Kosovo and Nato jets on just a few hours' alert, Richard Holbrooke, the American special envoy, will deliver one final warning to President Milosevic to halt his aggression or face a massive bombing onslaught.

Mr Milosevic has agreed to the meeting, due to take place this evening in Belgrade. In announcing the last-ditch effort yesterday, Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, described his mission: "We will make clear that Milosevic faces a stark choice: to halt aggression and accept an interim settlement with a Nato-led force, or bear the full responsibility for the consequences of military action."

President Clinton's National Security Adviser, Sandy Berger, described the renewed fighting as localised but intense.

There are roughly 40,000 Serb military in and around Kosovo poised for an offensive," he said. In Brussels, a Nato official said a situation of "appalling gravity" was taking shape and Nato was determined to prevent "an impending humanitarian disaster".

The level of displaced civilians was approaching the numbers of last October when 200,000 ethnic Albanians were driven from their homes. The official said the alert for allied aircraft to strike after receiving the order to do so had been reduced from 48 hours to "a matter of just a few hours".

He added: "Everything is ready" - but on hold for Mr Holbrooke, whose last meeting with Mr Milosevic a week and a half ago ended without any commitments. He was leaving Washington last night and will stop in Brussels this

morning on his way to Belgrade for consultations with British and French officials.

His stender chance for peace requires him to persuade Mr Milosevic to negotiate seriously. The talks broke down last week after the Kosovo Albanians signed a peace-and-autonomy package for the province, to be overseen by Nato peacekeepers. Serbs denounced the deal as an "imposed solution". If the talks were to be reopened, only technical points could be negotiated, not the key provisions of the deal, the Nato official said.

Mr Berger said Mr Holbrooke's task would not delay Nato's preparations, which was to make absolutely clear to Mr Milosevic that he can move to the path of peace or face punishment from Nato.

New terror, page 12

one account.  
one big reason to  
change banks.

see page 40.

## Nine-year-olds to be taught languages

BY JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR

MINISTERS are planning a classroom revolution to overcome Britain's notorious reluctance to learn foreign languages. Next month's review of the national curriculum will include a pledge to introduce language teaching from the age of nine.

The last attempt to introduce French in primary schools was abandoned more than 30 years ago amid concern about the cost of training teachers and the unevenness of provision. But a successful experiment in Scotland has encouraged the Government to try again.

An earlier start to foreign languages was one of Tony Blair's first education

proposals after becoming party leader. But the subject did not feature in Labour's election manifesto.

However, the revised curriculum to be introduced next year is expected to see a reduction in the detail schools have to cover in the core subjects, leaving room for innovation.

There will be no immediate requirement to teach a foreign language but the programme will be phased in for the final years of primary education when the current literacy and numeracy strategies have taken root.

English pupils begin to learn a foreign language much later than their counterparts elsewhere in Europe. France introduced a compulsory programme in primary schools last year

and Austrian primary schoolchildren learn two foreign languages. Several countries begin the process at five.

The national curriculum does not include a foreign language until the age of 11, when most children start secondary education. Only a short course is required beyond 14 and seven out of eight give up languages completely at 16.

Ministers believe that an earlier start would not only be effective but also popular with parents. Up to a third of primary schools offer some language teaching but most takes place in clubs, often at parents' expense.

Timetabled lessons in primary schools are likely to be among the central recommendations of the Nuffield Languages Inquiry, which is to report

early next year. Alan Moys, the secretary to the inquiry, said: "There is no conclusive evidence about what is the best age to learn a language but the worst time is in puberty, which is exactly when we do it."

The initiative is being championed by Charles Clarke, the Education Minister, who has met the inquiry team. His civil servants have been asked to devise a programme in time for a second term of Labour government.

Nigel de Gruchy, the general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said last night: "We would worry about the impact on a crowded curriculum but I doubt that the teachers are there to do this anyway."

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# Law lords set to overturn first Pinochet extradition ruling

Decision will anger Spain and is certain to prompt further legal challenges, reports Roland Watson

JACK STRAW was forced yesterday to deny that his activities as a student disqualified him from deciding on the extradition of General Augusto Pinochet, the former Chilean dictator.

The Home Office rejected allegations that Mr Straw had met and shared afternoon tea with Salvador Allende, the president overthrown by Pinochet, while on a visit to Chile 33 years ago.

A spokesman also denied that Mr Straw had demonstrated against Pinochet's regime after the bloody coup of 1973.

Friends of Mr Straw said both claims, which surfaced in Sunday newspapers along with photographs of Mr Straw during the 1966 visit, were designed to destabilise the Home Secretary just days before this week's House of Lords verdict on Pinochet's extradition to Spain.

One source close to the Home Secretary said: "This is clearly designed to put him in a difficult position."

However Lord Lamont, the former Tory Chancellor who has been campaigning for Pinochet's release, called for Mr Straw to make a statement to the Commons to clear up the matter.

Mr Straw had previously taken legal advice on whether his visit to Chile with a group of students to build a youth hostel barred him

from assuming his quasi-judicial role in the Pinochet case. He was advised it did not.

The case will be back in Mr Straw's hands this week after a ruling by the law lords which will give a huge boost to the former dictator's case for freedom.

The seven law lords, the highest court in the land, are expected to rule that the former dictator cannot be extradited for alleged crimes committed before 1988. This was the date when torture became an extra-territorial crime under British law. At the same time, a majority of the law lords, led by Sir Nicholas Browne-Wilkinson, the senior law

lord, is expected to uphold the case for denying the General immunity from prosecution for alleged crimes after that date.

As most of the allegations drawn up by the Spanish relate to acts in the first few months after Pinochet first seized power in 1973, the Spanish Government case for extradition could be fatally halted.

The long-awaited ruling — believed to run in total to some 200 pages with each judge giving his own reasons — throws a new perspective on the extradition wrangle.

The law lords originally ruled before Christmas that the former dictator had no immunity from prosecution by a three-to-two majority.

But that ruling had to be set aside after it emerged that one of the majority, Lord Hoffmann, had failed to disclose links with Amnesty International.

The second sitting over 12 days by a rare panel of seven law lords heard new evidence not aired before the previous panel of five which has been critical to their decision. The new arguments focused on the definition of an extradition crime: whether the crimes alleged were extraditable in law. The nub of the issue is whether the crime had to be one that was extraditable at the time it was committed both

in the foreign country and in the requesting state: or whether it is enough that the crime is now extraditable in the requesting state.

The law lords have decided to follow the reasoning of the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, who looked at the issue when it first came before the High Court. They have been persuaded of the argument that before 1988, no one could be tried in a British court for torture unless the alleged offence took place on British territory and no one could be extradited for a torture charge except to the country where the alleged offence took place.

The second key point in their ruling will be whether the General has immunity as a former head of state from extradition in respect of those crimes which the law lords decide are extraditable. On this they are believed to have decided that he does not, although this then leaves a much smaller corpus of crimes in form the case for extradition.

The ruling on Wednesday will be a body blow to the case for extraditing the former dictator put forward by the Spanish government. It means that the go-ahead to extradite originally given by Jack Straw will have to be revisited. It is also certain to prompt a succession of legal challenges. If the Home Secretary gives the go-ahead to extradition, Pinochet's legal team will mount a fresh challenge.

## Benefit offices given access to tax records

By Roland Watson, Political Correspondent

BENEFIT offices are to be given unprecedented access to people's confidential tax records as the Government's drive against social security fraud moves up a gear.

For the first time, officers targeting suspected fraudsters will be able to carry out on-screen computer checks of the individual's tax, National Insurance and social security files. It will allow them to identify immediately people making multiple claims, or those lying about their circumstances.

Ministers hope the development will prevent fraud taking root in the first place, leading to a dramatic fall in the level of illegal social security claims, conservatively estimated at up to £4 billion a year.

One effect of the change is that the Child Support Agency will be able to deduct unpaid maintenance from absent fathers directly from their pay packets.

Allister Darling, the social security secretary, is to launch a strategy document titled Safeguarding Social Security in the coming weeks giving details of the new initiative.

He will say the move will help build prevention into the system rather than relying on officers detecting fraud once it has already taken place.

The Tories warned last night questioned the move, saying it amounted to a breach of privacy. Iain Duncan Smith, the social security spokesman, said: "People's rights over their own personal records are being eroded by this Government." And ministers are braced for a backlash from the civil liberties lobby as well as Labour backbenchers.

However, the Department of Social Security insisted that all the changes were being carried out within the terms of the Data Protection Act. A spokesman said: "We are not giving the information to anyone else and we are only using it to protect the system from fraud."

The breakthrough comes with the merger of the Contributions Agency and the Inland Revenue, which takes effect from April 1.

A new generation of computer equipment is about to go on stream at the Department of Social Security, which will allow the on-screen data-matching to take place.

Although officers looking for fraud could cross-check previously, it involved a cumbersome paper-chase and was blamed for much fraud because it was immensely time consuming.

Mr Darling made clear yesterday that he will use powers in the Welfare Reform Bill currently going through Parliament to allow the Inland Revenue to supply information on absent fathers. It will allow the CSA to calculate what their payments should be and deduct it at source if they continue to contribute to their children's upbringing.

The change coincides with a simplifying of the formula for calculating liability. Mr Darling will confirm in the coming weeks that absent parents will pay 15 per cent of their net income for one child, 20 per cent for two and 25 per cent for three or more.

The banding system replaces the current rules which requires 104 different pieces of information for the dues to be worked out.



French lessons for children at Trafalgar Junior School, Twickenham, show the way forward for the national curriculum

## French with fun and no tears

By Hannah Betts

TRAFALGAR Junior School in Twickenham, southwest London, offers a shining example of the way language lessons can be integrated into the fabric of primary school life.

Despite its lack of inclusion in the national curriculum, French is taught at Trafalgar for 40 minutes a day from the

age of eight. But the school takes a lateral approach to maximising its language opportunities: morning registers, calendar work and weather charts are all used as opportunities to encourage children to use their skills.

French is made enjoyable with singing, videos, board games and picture exercises, and children welcome the subject as a break from more traditional lessons. Ten days ago, the school was visited by the French illustrator Alexis Ferrier — a roving man of many talents with little English — who made them flex their linguistic muscles while

writing a story for him to draw. For nine weeks every year the school welcomes a native French assistant.

The school started teaching French in 1994, inspired by Richmond LEA's positive attitude towards languages at primary level. Richard Smith, Trafalgar's francophile deputy head, was the scheme's prime mover.

"We would welcome the inclusion of a language hour to the national curriculum," Mr Smith said. "Children of all abilities relish the opportunity to learn a language. Those with special needs gain a particular lot from it because of

the emphasis on verbal skills — it can do incredible things for a child's self-esteem."

By the time children move onto secondary school they can discuss family life, moving about a town, parts of the body, the weather and time.

Initially, the school faced a degree of hostility from secondary schools in the area, jealously preserving their right to initiate children into language learning. However, these misunderstandings have largely been ironed out and Richmond secondaries are realising they can only benefit from an appetite for languages picked up at an early age.

## 'Master classes' for best comprehensive pupils

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

MORE than 100,000 of the brightest pupils in inner-city comprehensives are to be offered "master classes" in neighbouring schools under plans to be announced today. Extra support will also be provided for those who are falling behind.

The initiatives will form part of a wider package designed to rebuild confidence in state education in urban areas. But teachers' leaders said last night that ministers were undermining comprehensive schools by creaming off the most able children.

About 450 schools in London and six other big cities will have access to the scheme. They will receive extra funding to run after-school extension classes and will link with the growing network of specialist schools and beacon schools being developed as all-round centres of excellence.

Between 5 and 10 per cent of children will be selected for extra classes in each subject, including sport and music. In an extension of the "setting" principle which the Government encourages in comprehensive schools, the high flyers will be chosen subject by subject to reach those who are talented only in limited areas.

The 300 existing specialist schools are already required to make their facilities available to neighbouring schools. Some offer master classes to primary school pupils, and collaboration with other secondary schools is growing.

The three-year programme, which will cost hundreds of millions of pounds, will be unveiled by Tony Blair, who is anxious to stem the flight of middle-class families from inner-city comprehensives.

Mr Blair rejected his local comprehensive schools in Islington, North London, for his own children and has said he does not blame parents in other areas for doing the same.

Estelle Morris, the School Standards Minister, who taught in a large comprehensive in Coventry, is to be given special responsibility for the programme. Professor Tim Brighouse, who has announced his intention of resigning from the government's standard taskforce, is also expected to play a leading role.

However, news of the scheme drew an angry response from most teachers' leaders. Nigel de Gruchy, of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said: "Modernisation is a euphemism for the backdoor reintroduction of grammar school selection."

David Hart, of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "The suggestion that they [the brightest children] can only get the education they need by using specialist schools is a totally unjustified slur on mainstream comprehensive schools."

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Boy, 13, is beaten by loyalists

A 13-year-old Protestant boy was savagely beaten by a masked loyalist gang wielding baseball bats, making him one of Ulster's youngest victims of a punishment beating. The boy, who recently celebrated his birthday, was wandering with friends through his home town of Newtownards, Co Down, when he was singled out by a gang of men wearing balaclavas. He suffered a broken arm, several broken fingers, cuts and multiple bruising. A police spokeswoman described the assault, one of 50 punishment attacks this year, as "absolutely horrific".

#### Lorry drivers in tax rise protest

Around 700 protesting lorry drivers from all over the country are set to block London roads today despite a late offer by ministers to discuss vehicle tax rises. The protesters, from hauliers' splinter group Trans-Action, claim that overseas firms can operate lorries for one-third the cost.

#### Tebbit call over Al Fayed ruling

Lord Tebbit appealed to Jack Straw yesterday to deny Mohamed Al Fayed British citizenship as he disclosed details of a £30,000 gift to his wife — crippled in the Brighton bombing — by the Harrods tycoon. The modified car had been passed through a blind trust Lord Tebbit had set up to help her.

#### Fight action for Lennox fans

A London law firm is planning to bring legal action on behalf of British fight fans who believe they were cheated because of the decision which decided Lennox Lewis from becoming the undisputed world heavyweight champion. Almost 8,000 fans flew from Britain to New York.

#### Kennedy calls for library cash

Helena Kennedy, the barrister and campaigner for social justice, called on the Government to invest in libraries. Speaking on the eve of her lecture to launch the Orange Prize for Fiction for women's writing, she expressed despair that people were being deprived of part of community life.

#### Three killed as rare car crashes

Three people were killed yesterday when a rare £640,000 McLaren F1 sports car crashed into a building on the A120 at Great Dunmow, Essex. The car, which can reach 212 mph, exploded, killing the driver, Christopher Dawes, a businessman; Fiona Newman, 35; and Michael Lamb.

## Tory plan to curb ministers' power

By Roland Watson, Political Correspondent

RADICAL plans to strengthen the ability of MPs to hold ministers to account are being drawn up by the Tories to make Labour's "abuse" of Parliamentary procedure a central feature of the next general election campaign.

The proposals include a major upgrade of the role of select committees. The 30 or so committee chairmen would automatically become Privy Counsellors and could receive a salary and possibly even a car from the public purse.

Committees would also be able to subpoena witnesses and hold ministers in contempt of Parliament if their answers fail to satisfy MPs. Both would be considerable extensions of their current power.

Other ideas floated include stripping the whips of much of the power that currently allows them to minimise trouble for the Government. One proposal would see the Speaker given powers over the make-up of Parliamentary committees to prevent the whips packing them with party loyalists.

The plans for the Commons are part of a wider blueprint for constitutional reform, including changes to the House of Lords, which the Tories will pledge to implement should they return to power.

## Council tax rise to average 6.8%

By Roland Watson, Political Correspondent

COUNCIL taxes in England will rise by an average 6.8 per cent from next month, with residents of three counties bearing the brunt of the increase. It will be confirmed today.

The cost to the average household will be an extra £51, although ministers will present it as an increase of "less than £1 a week".

Labour will point out that its councils have a lower average rise at 6.1 per cent than Tory-controlled authorities at 7.6 per cent, although a direct comparison is difficult because of the small number of councils run by the Conservatives.

The news comes just days before the Government unveils its proposals for a new streamlined executive system of local government. The draft Bill will include measures to clamp down on the type of town hall corruption that has damaged Labour's image in a number of councils.

Labour chiefs will move this week to suspend the local party in Newark, where Fiona Jones quit as MP last week after being convicted of election fraud. Labour's national executive is expected to rule that regional officials take over the running of the constituency.

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# 'Ernie was the strength'

Stars say the brilliant comic was the anchor who sought perfection for duo, writes Alex O'Connell

THE stars of stage and screen paid tribute to the exquisite skills and brilliant timing of Ernie Wise, who died in hospital yesterday.

Among them were those who had appeared on the *Morecambe and Wise* show down the years and been the butt of jokes by the two comedians.

Des O'Connor, who was a friend of both in spite of suffering years of good natured ridicule, said: "At least now they are reunited. And knowing Ernie, he will say, 'You're late again'."

He did not think Wise had received as much acclaim as he deserved. "Ernie was the wit, he was capable of firing off a one-liner at you, but Ernie was the strength, he was the anchor. If Ernie got lost, it was Ernie pulling him back, and righting the boat."

This was their secret, that they were a great team.

The pair of them together provided the impact. They were average apart, together superb. Where are we going to find another Morecambe and Wise? To this day, when I get in a taxi, it's "You're not going to sing, Des, are you?"

"And I never saw them have a cross word, considering they were in each other's pockets, morning noon and night for tens of years."

Wise's long partnership



Those famous short, fat, hairy legs

with Eric Morecambe ended with his television partner's death from heart failure in 1984. Wise decided to launch a solo career rather than choose another partner as he could easily have done. In the early days of the act it had been Wise who dished out the insults and Morecambe who took them.

Bill Cotton, former BBC managing director of television, said: "When Morecambe and Wise were at the height of their fame and success there was no doubt in my mind that this was a 50/50 partnership. They were both as good as

each other and had an equal part to play in one of the best and funniest double acts that has ever graced the entertainment business in this country.

"Ernie's search for perfection was a main pillar of their success. The death of Eric Morecambe was a huge blow to Ernie and his wish to continue performing was often misinterpreted as an ambition for even greater fame."

"In fact, it was down to dedication and love of his work."

Norman Wisdom, who had known Wise for many years, said he had been sure his friend would pull through. "I thought he'd make it. He was a brilliant comedian and most importantly he was such a nice fellow."

Glenda Jackson, the Transport Minister and former actress, who appeared on the *Morecambe and Wise* TV show as Cleopatra, said: "I am very sorry that he has gone, he was a lovely man and a great performer."

The duo, whose Christmas specials became television classics, won their audience's heart by making the most glamorous celebrities look utterly stupid. In the last decade a new generation of comedians fronted by Vic Reeves, who is seen to be Morecambe's post-modern successor, has been influenced by their childish anarchy.



The fleet's in trouble: Eric and Ernie have a brush with Cliff Richard in a 1972 musical number on the Morecambe and Wise Show

## So what do you think of it so far?

Morecambe and Wise's first television performance was in 1953 as an act on BBC's *Variety Parade*. Their first show, *Running Wild*, was panned by critics.

The *Morecambe and Wise Show* began on ITV in 1961. There were 30 series on BBC and ITV and four Christmas specials.

Eric and Ernie would leave the stage dancing to their signature tune *Bring Me Sunshine* after a large woman had thanked the audience for

watching "her little show" or a man had played a mouth organ.

They were appointed OBE in 1976. The Queen Mother once asked Eric to teach her "the bag trick" where he caught an imaginary pebble in a paper bag.

The 1977 Christmas show on BBC attracted 27.5 million viewers, the all-time record audience for a programme shown on a single channel. It featured Elton John playing a song to the BBC cleaners.

The conductor Andre Previn became known to a new audience of non-classical music fans when he had an argument with the comedians over a Grieg concerto. Glenda Jackson, after playing Cleopatra in a 1979 spoof, won a part in the comedy film *A Touch of Class* with George Segal.

Michael Caine and Roger Moore refused to appear because they were scared they would get a ribbing.

Morecambe and Wise's catchphrases were: "What do you think of it

so far?" "You can't see the jolo" (in reference to ill-fitting toupees). "He's the one with short, fat, hairy legs" (Eric on Ernie). "Get out of that" (originally coined during a judo contest between the two).

Ernie's favourite sketch was to *Singin' in the Rain*, because he got to be a little glamorous and remained dry while Morecambe was drenched through.

Peter Cushing still hasn't been paid for his performance.

## Sooty censured over medicine risk to children

CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

AFTER a 47-year career free from controversy, Sooty, the glove puppet has fallen foul of the television regulators.

He and his co-stars, Sweep and Miss Soot, long regarded as three of the most inoffensive characters in children's entertainment, have been censured for portraying dangerous behaviour which might encourage youngsters to dabble with drugs.

Viewers complained that in an episode of ITV's *Sooty and Co* the puppets were seen sniffing and playing with essential oil bottles that closely resembled medicine bottles. The show's presenters, Richard Cadell and Liana Bridges were also seen swallowing homeopathic pills.

Eleven complainants, two of whom were professional aromatherapists, claimed it was irresponsible to show the puppets opening what could have been interpreted as medicine bottles. They also protested that essential oils could be dangerous if misused - in undiluted form the strongest oils could burn the skin.

Granada, which makes the programme for ITV, argued that the intention had been to introduce children to the fragrances, not to encourage them to play with bottles. All the oils, the spokesman said, were clearly labelled in bottles that were similar to but not the same as medicine bottles.

However, it admitted that research had shown that some oil could burn the skin.

The Independent Television Commission upheld the complaints saying that the programme, in November last year, breached the section of the programme code which prohibits the portrayal of any dangerous behaviour, easily imitated by children at times when large numbers of them may be watching.

The ITC, in its ruling, said: "However well-intentioned the episode, the ITC considered it unwise to have shown characters playing with bottles that could easily have been confused with the type of medi-

cine bottles found at home. Older children might have some grasp of the distinction between conventional and homeopathic medicine and possibly some understanding of essential oils. But the same could not be said of younger children."

It is the first time that Sooty, made famous by his creator the late Harry Corbett, has been accused of promoting reckless behaviour.

However in 1994 *The Sooty Show* was warned by regulators about product placement after Sooty videos were seen prominently displayed in a shop scene in one of the episodes.

A Granada spokeswoman said that Sooty had moved with the times and was now tackling more contemporary issues such as homeopathy.

Other television programmes came under fire in the report for showing explicit sex scenes. Channel 5's documentary series *Sex And Shopping* and ITV's *The Sex Trade* were both condemned for their explicit sexual content, and *Sex And Shopping*, which was aired beyond the 9pm watershed at 10.50pm on Channel 5, was condemned as "unacceptably explicit for transmission at any time".

The 13-part series, which began in October, was preceded by a warning that it was "a frank look at the global pornography business". It drew complaints from 11 viewers.



Sooty: in hot water over aromatherapy



Brian Warren: checking for newborn lambs

## Farmer is gored to death by angry bull

BY TIM JONES

RESCUERS had to stand by helplessly for half an hour before they could recover the body of an elderly farmer who had been gored to death by an enraged bull.

As Brian Warren, 86, lay dead in a field at his farm, the 2,000lb beast stood over him preventing paramedics and ambulance men from going to his aid. They were able to drag his body out of the field only after the bull had been shot by a gamekeeper.

Mr Warren, of Hail Farm, Forham All Saints, Suffolk, is believed to have been in the field checking for newborn lambs when he was attacked by the five-year-old animal.

His body was discovered on Saturday evening by his son Martin, 37, who was too distressed to talk about the incident.

The pair, who ran the 100 acre farm together, kept the bull in the field along with their suckler herd of ten cows with calves and 75 sheep.

Sebastian White, 34, a family friend, said: "No bull is to be fully trusted and this one had a reputation for being cantankerous. Brian used to warn visitors to the farm to be careful of it but he thought he could handle it."

He added: "Although he was extremely fit for his age, his eyesight was not what it was. Brian had been in the village for a long time and had farmed all his life. What he didn't know about sheep and cattle wasn't worth knowing."

## Julius quits Diana fund

LAWYER Anthony Julius has stepped down as chair of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, it was announced yesterday.

He and his firm Mishcon de Reya were criticised last year when the fund was charged £500,000 in legal fees. Christopher Spence, trustee and chair of the fund's grants committee, is to take over as chairman.

Mr Julius, who negotiated Diana's divorce settlement,

will remain a trustee of the fund, which he co-founded in September 1997, soon after the death of the Princess.

"I am proud to have been a founding trustee and chair of this fund, which has already committed over 15 million in grants and is now set to be a highly effective champion of charitable causes for many years to come, in the name of Diana, Princess of Wales," he said.

"This is a good and fitting

way to carry forward the values of her work. I am now pleased to hand over the chair of the fund to Christopher Spence, who has already been so deeply involved in developing the fund's policies for supporting charities and who has himself such a wide and deep experience of the voluntary sector and its requirements."

His law firm, Mishcon de Reya, caused controversy last year when the fund was charged 500,000 in legal fees.



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## BREITLING ORBITER: "THE EAGLE HAS LANDED"

# Euphoria greets end of an epic journey

Pilots had to toast their success with a glass water, reports  
Helen Rumbelow from Geneva

"THE eagle has landed," was the long-awaited message that triggered whoops of relief, hugs and celebratory champagne in the Breitling Orbiter 3's control centre in Geneva at 6am yesterday.

"We're OK, bloody good," said Brian Jones. His team responded with "Well done, chaps," before the phone line died. The pilots were left to "shriek with joy" and toast their success with cups of water as they took their first steps on land for nearly 20 days.

They had landed in the nick of time, having just a few drops of propane left after passing over the "treacherous sandy sea" of the Western Desert to firmer ground, 50 miles north of Muir.

Bertrand Picard announced that "this is the begin-

ning of a new kind of life," for the pair, who had already been awarded the Olympic Order by the International Olympic Committee and been saluted by Tony Blair and the Queen before they were rescued by the Egyptian helicopter.

It was the achievement of an "everyman" and gave everyone hope to pursue their dreams, said Joanna Jones as she waited for her husband to return to Geneva.

"He's my hero, but he is also a normal man who has proved that nothing is impossible," she said. "Neither of us have realised how big this is, the extraordinary feat hasn't sunk in yet, but Brian is the ideal hero as he will share it with everybody."

When Mr Jones crossed the



Joanna Jones, left, and Michelle Picard, whose husbands were the pilots, hear the news; and below, a drawing by Mr Jones's granddaughter Sophia



finishing line in Mauritania on Saturday morning, he told his wife, "I love you, I'm going to have a cup of tea." The water took 25 minutes to boil at his altitude of 30,000 feet.

In return, his wife said that she would rush up to hug him when they are reunited. She then asked him to shave off his beard, which she said made him look like a "Mexican bandit".

"He'll be like a boy with a

new toy, unbearably excited and beaming all over his little face," she said.

Mr Picard on Saturday thanked the "invisible hand" that guided them in their 46,759km tour of the globe. Mrs Jones said that the weather was so favourable that: "You have to believe it was their destiny."

Mr Jones, she said, had earned a hero's welcome on his return after the mental or-

deal of the cramped flight, which her husband had compared to three weeks spent locked in the back of an estate car.

"His time in the RAF gave him a professional approach, but this strength and resolve has come from deep within him," she said.

The worst of times were over the Pacific, when the men lost voice contact with the base for three long "dog days". The

control team was so anxious the pilots would be defeated that they sent them cheerful reminders as they passed key points of the journey. One of them read:

There were two balloon pilots over the Pacific.

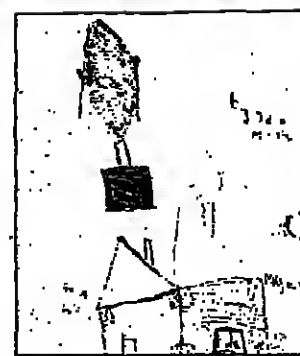
Who said 'We really must be specific'.

With a record to break. We could do with a cake.

And a glass of champagne would be terrific.

"We had trouble trying to find a rhyme with Hawaii," said Mrs Jones.

Don Cameron, the balloon's designer, said that the landing was so gentle that the capsule would be in an almost pristine condition for its appearance in an aviation museum. The final resting place for the craft will be decided once it had been salvaged from the desert. "That small balloon is a piece of history now," Mr Cameron said.



## Makers toast their team

CHAMPAGNE was flowing at the Cameron Balloons Team's HQ in Bristol yesterday after the history-making Breitling Orbiter 3 crew finally returned safely to terra firma.

An excited Nick Purvis, sales director for Cameron, who designed and built the balloon, said: "We are absolutely over the moon, totally elated. You just have to come down here to Bristol to feel the atmosphere."

"All the people who worked

on the project are here celebrating, there's been lots of champagne flowing. "We have sent the guys our congratulations."

He added: "The balloon landed first thing in the morning when the winds in Egypt are at their calmest. Landing such a balloon is not plain sailing, the risk is part of the journey. It's a big beast to bring down."

This was the third attempt by Breitling to circumnavigate the world in a balloon.

the first try was around 20 years ago. It has taken five years for the current team to beat the record.

Mr Purvis said: "It's been a long time to get to this end goal."

"This is the final great achievement, this is the last great achievement to be done. "It was so much down to luck. I'd say 60 per cent of these projects rely on luck and our guys have had a lot of luck on their side, but you need to have the right team."

## Branson's olympic ideal

FROM HELEN RUMBLOW IN GENEVA

TO SHOW he is a good loser, Richard Branson will be in Geneva today to greet Brian Jones and Bertrand Picard.

The vanquished Virgin chairman will offer them champagne, congratulations and a challenge to take him on in a round-the-world balloon race.

Mr Branson may not get the warm welcome he expects.

There were rumbles of discontent at the Geneva control centre last night that his high-profile appearance may upstage the triumphant duo.

The team fears that Mr Branson's public challenge to a race may undermine the Jones and Picard celebrations. Mr Branson insists that he had the idea of a race before the others beat him to the coveted prize. Virgin is willing to sponsor the global race but

Mr Branson would like to see ballooning become an Olympic sport. His argument is that it is "a lot more physical than chess and is growing in popularity all the time".

Whether the Anglo-Swiss team is in the mood to answer its rival's challenge is in some doubt. One team member said: "The visit is unconfirmed this end. It's Brian and Bertrand's day. They are the ones that did it."

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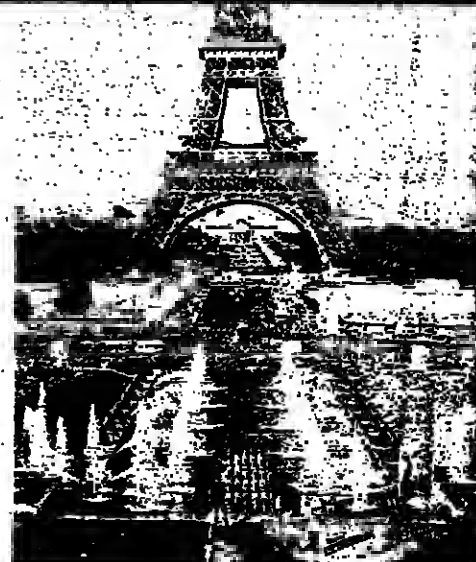
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BREITLING ORBITER: "THE EAGLE HAS LANDED"

# 'Now we are one with the angels'

High morale was shown by flying past the finishing line, reports Christopher Walker from Cairo

EVEN without any audience to the ground to greet them, the two balloonists were reportedly in high spirits from the moment they touched ground.

Bertrand Picard jumped off the gondola and waved to the cheering Breitling plane, while Mr Jones, 51, was more subdued in his initial expression of relief that the journey was over.

The pair's flight controller, Alan Noble explained that Mr Jones told him: "I am now going to get outside the balloon and I am going to have my first pee that is not in a bottle for three weeks."

The strength and morale of the circumnavigators during the closing stages of their 478-hour voyage was highlighted by their decision to continue their flight beyond the finishing line for the round-the-world record that had eluded dozens of balloonists before them.

After 19 days aloft, the huge

silver balloon floated over Mauritania past longitude 9 degrees west on Saturday to complete the 26,000-mile-plus non-stop navigation in some 40 days less than the fictional challenge originally envisioned by Jules Verne. There is already speculation that Hollywood is planning to dramatise the real-life journey.

Before landing, M Picard, a 41-year-old psychiatrist from a family famed for its adventuring, thanked the "invisible hand" that guided the pair past storms and other setbacks in his third quest to circumnavigate the globe.

"We are very lucky and privileged to have succeeded in the first round-the-world trip," he said. "We are having great difficulty realising our dreams have come true... we are with the angels."

Mr Noble said: "We have had a lot of luck with our project. Everything has gone our way."

Yesterday's successful dawn



landing was counted as another triumph for the unsung heroes of the world record bid, the team's meteorologists, Luc Trullemans and Pierre Eckert, who were described by Monsieur Picard as "the link between nature and us".

While Mr Jones's wife, Joanna, was with mission control in Geneva, Mr Picard's wife, Michelle was in Egypt for the desert touchdown. Beforehand, she said: "I am very happy, but I will be completely fulfilled when I am reunited with my husband."

The two balloonists raised

their hands in triumph when they first met the press on arriving in Mut in an Egyptian military helicopter yesterday afternoon. But they said they had been briefly concerned they would have to spend the night in the desert after a delay of eight hours on the ground before they were picked up.

M Picard said: "We spent a few hours looking at the sand, sun, the sky. Very calm. Then we had to deflate the balloon and when everything was ok, we went to sleep in the gondola for two hours."

Mr Jones said that the first thing he wanted was orange juice, but he was served Coca-Cola in the VIP rest area at the airstrip before the men were flown to Cairo. Strong winds had made for a perfect landing, he added, but the balloon was "a bit of a mess."

"The winds tipped it over, and we had to run around the balloon with our knives to make holes to keep it from being dragged across the desert," he said. He had sprained his wrist punching holes in the balloon.

Mr Jones and his fellow pilot, sporting three week old beards and blue flight suits, said that what they most wanted was a shower. When the balloon first landed they had celebrated by washing their hair with water that had been frozen during the high-altitude voyage.

The pair had been dozing when an Egyptian army airbase spotted them and despatched the helicopter to pick them up. On arriving in Cairo last night, Ms Picard was reunited with his wife and three daughters.

Peter Jones said that he felt "deflated" after finishing the voyage, during which he and his Swiss co-pilot endured cold weather, altitude sickness and lived on rehydrated food during



Dawn landing of the Breitling Orbiter 3, a triumph for the team's unsung meteorologists

## Space suits and races on the next frontier

NO SOONER had the pilots touched earth than their rival adventurers were trying to find ways to push balloons to higher limits.

The future of this "sailing of the skies" lies in going up to the edge of space, going it alone, or racing against a field that sets off from the same place under the starter's gun.

A air race similar to the Whitbread round-the-world yacht race looked imminent, said Don Cameron, maker of the Breitling Orbiter 3, and the British delegate to the ballooning regulators, the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale.

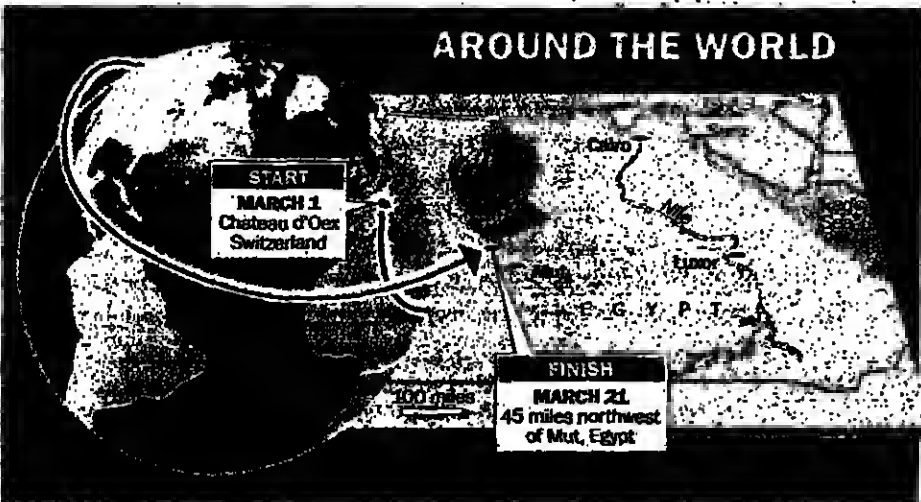
He now believes in an almost boundless potential after seeing the sport revolutionised in the past 30 years. "In the 1960s, I predicted that maybe you could get a balloon to fly for as long as nine hours, but no more."

Five years ago, the FAI realised that the round-the-world challenge was within balloonists' grasp and drew up the rules. "The Great Race" was expected to begin next year, he said.

Andy Elson, whose Cable and Wireless balloon attempt failed two weeks ago, wants to take a traditional basket balloon higher than 46,000 metres, while wearing a space suit at an altitude at which any leak would burst a head open. No human has been above 34,638 metres in a balloon, a record set in the 1960s.

The final challenge is the solo flight around the world. This had been the aim of Steve Fossett, the American millionaire. He set two distance records by flying alone in an unpressurised balloon.

He abandoned this last summer, admitting that the projects foundered partly because of the stress caused by being deprived of sleep for more than a week.



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# Anti-Mussolini plotter was protected



Mussolini: 1931 plot to kill him failed

A LONDON businessman's plot to kill Mussolini was covered up by the Home Secretary and the Metropolitan Police because of his friendship with the first Labour Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald, documents released by the Home Office have shown.

The 1931 assassination attempt misdirected by Emilio Recchioni, an Italian-born Briton who ran a delicatessen in Soho, was closely monitored by Special Branch and MI5 but their knowledge of his plans were deliberately kept under wraps. The authorities kept quiet even when Recchioni sued successfully for libel against a national newspaper that named him as a plotter, for fear that a trial would prove

## Mark Henderson on a Prime Minister's links to a man who tried to kill Italian leader

embarrassing to MacDonald and his Government. He was never arrested either, for the same reason.

The Home Office file, which was originally marked to be closed until 2035, was uncovered by *Alto* magazine, which reports it in full this month. Recchioni, who was born near Ravenna in 1894 and arrived in England in 1899 after a failed attempt to kill the Prime Minister, Francesco Crispi, was friendly with an array of prominent left-wing and intellectual figures of the 1920s and 1930s, including George Orwell and Sylvia Pankhurst as well as MacDonald.

His shop, King Bomba at 37 Old Compton Street, became known as a centre of anti-fascist agitation after Mussolini's rise to power.

Rumours that Recchioni was plotting to assassinate Mussolini began to circulate in 1929 and in 1931 he travelled to Brussels to meet Angelo Spardellotto, an Italian anarchist who volunteered to kill Mussolini if provided with weapons and enough cash. Recchioni, who was being shadowed by Special Branch agent J O'Reilly, appears to have done both. Spardellotto was later arrested in Rome in possession of two bombs and a loaded revolver, and confessed to meeting Recchioni on several occasions in Brussels and Paris to plan the killing. A Home Office investigation concluded: "It seems likely that he (Recchioni) is in fact the person who supplied the bombs."

Despite this, Recchioni was not arrested, and when *The Daily Telegraph* quoted Italian sources naming him as an assassination plotter, he sued for damages to his reputation as a "virtuous man". Though testimony from Colonel Carter, the Special Branch agent who monitored Recchioni, could have turned the case in the newspaper's favour, he was prevented from doing so by

Lord Trenchard, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, and Herbert Samuel, the Home Secretary.

Trenchard wrote to Samuel: "The DT have applied to Colonel Carter to know if he can help them, but we told him the only possible reply is that he has no evidence he can give." Later, he wrote again: "It is unfortunate that Recchioni may get damages out of the DT, but I do not see how it can be helped." Recchioni did get damages, of £1,177, after reportedly spending just £35 on Spardellotto's bombs. He died two years later, while in Paris for medical treatment. Trenchard and Samuel almost certainly covered up Recchioni's involvement because of his sensitive links to MacDonald, the papers suggest. Reports from the Italian Secret Police describe his "personal friendship" with the Prime Minister, and Labour's rise to power was without doubt of benefit to him. Until 1929 the Home Office, advised by Colonel Carter, had blocked his attempts to become a naturalised Briton: the Special Branch agent described him as "an intriguer of the first order". That all changed when MacDonald reached Downing Street. Recchioni was naturalised "in spite of a bad report", under pressure from the Home Office. Carter would have had to reveal this under oath had he testified in the libel action.

## Sex-book rabbi lists God's top ten tips for dating game

THE rabbi who aroused controversy with his book *Kosher Sex* is promoting a new guide to dating: the Ten Commandments.

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach says that the biblical code contains as much practical guidance for lovers as any number of self-help books proliferating on bookshop shelves.

He resigned from his North London synagogue after his book caused a storm in the Orthodox community. He asserted that sexual attraction and gratification were essential for a successful relationship. No one expected to marry a virgin these days but sex should come later rather than sooner in a relationship, he added.

In his next book, *Dating Secrets of the Ten Commandments*, he says that many men are highly sexed and want to have intercourse as often as possible, which is why American rap music referred to them as "dogs" that like "dogging" all day long. But he goes on to argue that such behaviour is not the answer to lasting relationships.

In the new book, subtitled *Keep Taking the Tablets and Find Your Perfect Soulmate*, he says the Ten Commandments contain the answers to self-control and lifelong love within a relationship. Rabbi

**Ruth Gledhill**  
on why the Bible is being quoted as the best manual for lovers

Boteach, 32, who is married with six children, says: "We should all be looking for soulmates, for someone who fills out existential vacuum."

"There is a profound misconception about religion today. The Ten Commandments are seen as a moral code given by a law-defined God to a lawless people in the wilderness," he writes. They should be seen instead as the rules of a relationship between God and his people.

Rabbi Boteach, whose parents divorced when he was eight years old, said: "The Ten Commandments are the most famous guide to living ever devised. They lend themselves to the rules of relationships."

For example, the second commandment, forbidding people to worship any other God, is about the importance of putting a wife or husband

first. "To be the one and only is essential in any relationship," he says in the book, to be published in May.

Rabbi Boteach, who was the runner-up in the 1998 Times Preacher of the Year Award, works for Oxford's *JChaim* society, a Jewish student organisation.

He points out that according to Jewish tradition, everyone has a predestined soulmate. Some rabbis believe that an angel, Achazriel, decides who will marry whom even before they are born, while others believe that souls are divided into two in Heaven before birth and that the two halves are placed in a man and a woman.

The Jewish wedding ritual, he says, is based partly on the revelation of the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai, which are found in the Old Testament books of Exodus and Deuteronomy.

"The groom waits under a wedding canopy, reflecting how God was up the mountain before the Jewish people, waiting there for them, and using the mountain to protect them, according to Jewish tradition." *Dating Secrets of the Ten Commandments*, Hodder & Stoughton (to be published on May 6 at £6.99)



Rabbi Boteach says happiness in the bedroom must be based on "the most famous guide to living ever devised"

Rabbi Boteach's interpretations:  
1. *I am the Lord thy God*: "If a man says to a woman 'I love you' but my job comes first, she will not be interested."  
2. *Thou shalt have no other God but me*: "To be the one and only is essential in any relationship."  
3. *Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain*: "Having enough confidence not to swear or tell lies about yourself."  
4. *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it*

### A NEW READING OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

holy: "A relationship needs sacred moments cordoned off from the rest of life."  
5. *Honour thy father and mother*: "Ceasing to show gratitude is death to a relationship."  
6. *Thou shalt not kill*: "You can destroy a life but you can also destroy someone's self-confidence by being critical."

7. *Thou shalt not commit adultery*: "This is about abuse and misuse of sexuality."  
8. *Thou shalt not steal*: "A person's most important possession is their heart."  
9. *Thou shalt not bear false witness*: "Keep your promises and never say something in a relationship that you cannot deliver."  
10. *Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's goods*: "So many people feel there is something better out there. This is about optimism."

## Irvine bias claim goes to tribunal

By Frances Gibb  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, will be accused of race and sex discrimination today in an unprecedented tribunal claim.

The action against him has been brought by two women solicitors over the appointment in 1997 of Garry Hart as his special adviser. Mr Hart, who was a partner with the City law firm Herbert Smith, is a friend of Lord Irvine and godfather to one of Tony Blair's children.

Jane Coker and Martha Osamor, claim that the Lord Chancellor discriminated against them in that he did not advertise the post and that they were therefore unlawfully deprived of the chance of applying for it.

Lord Irvine is not expected to attend the hearing — a matter which lawyers for the two women may argue shows contempt for the tribunal. They will argue that the appointment is in breach of the EU equal treatment directive as well as the Sex Discrimination and Race Relations Acts.

Lord Irvine's case is that there is no discrimination: that the appointment was made because the Lord Chancellor had confidence in Mr Hart based on his knowledge of his qualities and experience.

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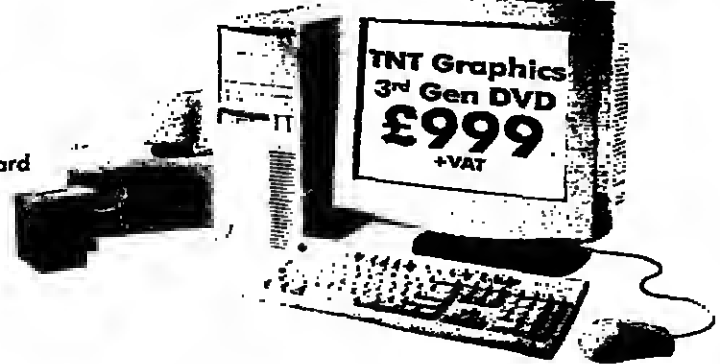
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# ICI heads list of worst polluters

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

THE chemicals giant ICI heads a "Hall of Shame" of 20 companies that are the most flagrant polluters in England and Wales, the Environment Agency will announce today.

Five water companies, led by Wessex, also feature in the list, along with the oil company Shell UK, several construction and waste management companies and the nuclear fuels firm BNFL.

The list is aimed at shaming industry into doing more to prevent toxic and hazardous chemicals seeping into rivers, underground aquifers and lakes, and is being used by the agency to demand tougher fines for polluters.

Ed Gallagher, the agency's chief executive, said yesterday: "Tough action in the field needs to be matched by tougher penalties being imposed by the courts. The average fine for a prosecution last year was £2,786. Clearly this is not sending out a strong enough message to deter large businesses that have the potential to seriously damage the environment."

The case of Anglian Water Services, EOM Construction, which is seventh on the agency's list, underscores the agency's concern. The company was successfully prosecuted for illegally keeping and disposing of thousands of tonnes of controlled wastes on sites in Burnley and Colne. The tipping saved the company an estimated £190,000 but it was fined only £21,000 with £1,600 costs in court in November last year.

ICI's position as the most shameful company on the agency's list is based on three incidents. In March last year the company was fined £300,000 for polluting groundwater at its site in Runcorn, Cheshire, with 150 tonnes of chloroform.

In June it was fined £80,000 for the accidental release of 56 tonnes of trichloroethylene, a cleaning fluid, at the same site, some of which contaminated the nearby Western Canal. ICI was also fined £2,500 for allowing 200 tonnes of naphthalene to escape from underground tanks at Brinefields, Cleveland, contaminating marshland and killing birds, fish and plants.

In second place on the table is Tyekey Waste Disposal, which was fined £95,000 last year for losing two "radioactive sources" during demolition of an incinerator.

London Waste was fined £38,500 for burning unauthorised waste and for failing to comply with an enforcement notice. Other waste companies named in the report are Alco Waste Management and Caird Environmental.

Archie Robertson, the Environment Agency's director of operations, said that it was of particular concern that waste management firms were flouting the laws because "after all, they are meant to be there to clean up the environment."

Wessex Water was prosecuted five times last year and fined £36,500 mostly for sewage pollution. It was fined £15,000 in April after sewage from its "Trowbridge treatment works" entered the River Bliss, killing more than 5,000 fish. Other water firms in the hall of shame include Anglian, North West, Welsh and Severn Trent.

Shell UK was fined £20,000 in October for polluting the Manchester Ship Canal with 140 tonnes of oil from its manufacturing complex in Ellesmere Port. BNFL was fined £20,000 for breaking discharge conditions covering non-radioactive trade effluent from its Springfield site in Preston into the River Ribble.

The hall of shame, which the agency plans to update annually, attracted applause from environmental groups. Friends of the Earth agreed that fines were "pitiful". "ICI, who came top of the list, were fined less than 0.15 per cent of profits," the group said.

Graham Setterfield, of Water UK, which represents the water industry, said that nearly £15 billion had been spent over the past ten years in reducing pollution.



The male peregrine falcon swoops on its mate, perched on a ledge of the church spire. Food is plentiful here



A rare photograph of falcons mating in urban Britain

## Falcons find a city sanctuary

By Our Environment Correspondent

THE noise and bustle of a city centre has proved no deterrent to a pair of peregrine falcons that has nested on a church spire in Bath — lured there by the plentiful pigeons.

Peregrine falcons normally prefer high, hidden, locations like cliffs and quarries. As their numbers continue to expand after falling to a few hundred pairs in the Fifties and Sixties, they are obviously beginning to push inland. St John's Roman Catholic Church with its height and flocks of prey is clearly an ideal nesting site.

A sighting of the birds, which grow to about two feet long with a three-foot wingspan, in an inner city is rare.

Graham Elliot of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said yesterday: "I have not heard of photographs like this being taken."

Phil Hurrell, assistant producer of the BBC's *The Life of Birds* series, said: "It shows they have conquered their fear of humans. Obviously they are adapting themselves to our environment. Towns and cities are ideal for them. Buildings suit them as nesting sites and there are lots of pigeons waiting to be eaten."

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# Spending a fortune on sterling

Paul Sykes turned £170 into £325m. But he does not want that turned into euros, writes Philip Webster

ONE of Britain's wealthiest men is selling off large chunks of his £325 million (£486 million) business empire to oppose the euro and save sterling.

Paul Sykes, who formed his Democracy Movement at the end of last year, said yesterday that he was pulling out of business to engage in what he called "the biggest fight of all — the campaign to keep our democracy".

He said that he was willing to spend "what it takes" to build a mass campaign to collect and distribute information about the effects of the single currency. He is ready to sink at least £20 million (£30 million) of his personal fortune into what he said would be a marathon fight.

Mr Sykes, 55, wants to expand his organisation, which was formed by merging his Euro Information Campaign with the remnants of Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party, into a political party and will not put up candidates at elections. But it will spend the years leading up to a referendum in 2001 or 2002 countering what he said would be the "deluge of one-sided information" from the Government and Brussels.

After the Neill report on political funding, the Government is expected to limit the amount that parties and individuals can spend in the referendum campaign. But that does not apply to Mr Sykes and his team.

Literature will be sent to every home and there will be newspaper advertisements and videos. There will be a succession of "Democracy Days" to highlight what Mr Sykes sees as the threat of the euro to Britain's ability to govern.

He will include the trade unions in his campaign, because he believes that members are not getting the full information from their leaderships.

The Democracy Movement

has attracted 65,000 members and has headquarters in London and 165 branches.

"I want to expand that to 2,000 to 3,000 branches," Mr Sykes said.

Mr Sykes said that after 38 years in business — he began with £170 (£254) and his wealth is put conservatively at £325 million (£486 million) — he wanted to devote all his energies to a cause he believed in more than anything else.

"I have had a successful business life but I could not live with myself if we lost our ability to govern, which is what the single currency means, without putting up the best fight I can muster against it," he said.

He said that he had tried to achieve his aims through the Conservative Party. At the last election, he spent £1 million (£1.50 million) backing more than 200 Tory candidates who declared their opposition to the single currency.

But he said that the "leadership made the mistake of listening to the Clarke and Heseltine" and he had given up hope that it would oppose in principle the single currency.

"There is now no political party that is prepared to tell the British people what is being done in their name. The Tory position means that they are saying they might join at some future stage."

Mr Sykes, who is married with four children, has huge property and technology interests and owns 40 per cent of a big shopping centre near Sheffield. "I am already diluting my commitments but I will be selling the majority of my assets and giving up all my executive roles," he said. He added that his family fully backed his decision.

He is holding talks with the other organisations, such as Business for Sterling, that are pledged to oppose the single currency and will shortly have discussions with Lord Owen, leader of the all-party New Europe group.



Mr Sykes is prepared to spend £20 million sending leaflets to every home and expanding his Democracy Movement from 165 branches to 3,000

## Tycoon buys into a new kind of scrap

Mark Inglefield profiles the pound's new champion

PAUL SYKES does not have the dash and glamour of the late Sir James Goldsmith, the last tycoon to finance a campaign against the euro, but few would deny that he has the spending power and the passion to continue his work.

Now 55, Mr Sykes is Britain's 67th richest man with an estimated fortune of £325 million. His success is a classic rags-to-riches tale. The son of a Yorkshire miner, he left school at 15 without a single O level and was told he would never amount to anything.

His first foray into business came two years later when he sank his savings into a company that broke up buses for

scrap metal. That led to selling buses to the Third World.

During that period of his life he fondly recalls reading about the Beatles, who were then earning £1,000 a week. At that time he was 24, a millionaire, and drove a Rolls-Royce.

The core of his fortune is a mixture of interests. In the 1970s and 1980s he invested heavily and profitably in out-of-town retail and office parks, the largest being Sheffield's Meadowhall complex.

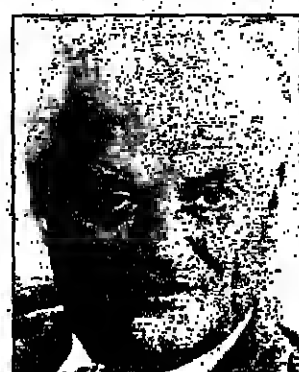
More recently he entered the burgeoning Internet sector. He recently sold his stake in Planet Online, the biggest Internet provider in the busi-

ness market, for £50 million. He is also behind the Free-serve Internet service offered by the retailers Dixons.

But he has long since tired off the trappings of wealth, and the yachts and private jets have all been sold and he has begun simplifying his life-style. He let go of his 17th-century manor house and now lives in what he describes as a small cottage in Yorkshire.

Mr Sykes does not smoke or drink, he buys his clothes from Marks & Spencer and he abhors frivolous spending.

Like many self-made men, he does not believe in inherited wealth, and intends spending the bulk of his 60 environ-



James Goldsmith, also fought against the euro

mental and wildlife projects before he dies.

Mr Sykes sent three of his four children to state schools because he feared that private

education would turn them into "oddballs".

Nobody could doubt his commitment to the anti-single currency cause, given that he has already pledged £20 million to the Democracy Movement.

Before going out on his own, Mr Sykes had been a supporter and major donor to the Conservative Party. He withdrew his support from the Tories after becoming disillusioned with John Major's "wait and see" approach to the monetary union and stood down as the Tory candidate for Barnsley Central.

He has since spent more than £2 million on anti-EMU advertising and on backing Tories who campaigned on a Eurosceptic platform.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Killers may have sought diamond

Robbers who stabbed to death a wealthy jeweller and his wife may have been seeking a rare diamond that the couple are thought to have owned. It emerged yesterday that one of Mohammed Karim's sons had been attacked three years ago by criminals who were interested mainly in the diamond.

The bodies of Mr Karim, 52, and his wife, Bilquis, 48, were found in their shop in Preston, Lancashire on Friday. Their killers had left behind jewels and gold worth thousands of pounds.

#### Reserve burnt

Two thirds of the 340-acre Rosenham Bog and Downs site of special scientific interest was damaged by a suspicious fire at the weekend. The site, near Wadebridge, Cornwall, is one of Britain's most important wildlife reserves.

#### Eurostar delay

Hundreds of Eurostar passengers travelling from Paris were stranded for about 80 minutes when a train broke down after emerging from the English end of the tunnel. Other services on the line were disrupted for some time.

#### Dog attacks boy

A mongrel that attacked Mitchell Howard, 3, near his home at Cannock, Staffordshire, has been put down. Mitchell's mother, Jan, fought off the dog but it seriously injured the boy, who could need plastic surgery to his face.

#### Zoo sanctuary

A £1.2 million enclosure for animals at risk of extinction is to be opened on Friday at Jersey Zoo on its 40th anniversary. The enclosure will initially house South American Andean bears, short-clawed otters and ring-tailed coatis.

#### Baby abandoned

A new-born baby has been found abandoned in a box in a shopping arcade in Leicester. The boy, just hours old, was taken to hospital, where his condition was said to be stable. Police appealed for his mother to come forward.

## USS Churchill set to sail

BY MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE EDITOR

NEXT month Sir Winston Churchill will become the first Englishman since the 18th century to have an American warship named after him.

The USS Winston S Churchill, an Arleigh Burke class guided missile destroyer, is to be launched on April 17, at Bath in Maine. Sir Winston's daughter, Lady Mary Soames, will christen the ship and

George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, will also attend.

The ship will be equipped with an advanced anti-submarine warfare system, Tomahawk cruise missiles and Harpoon anti-ship missiles.

The decision to name the destroyer after Churchill was made in 1995 by John Dalton, then American Navy Secretary. Mr Dalton said that Churchill had made "celebrated accomplishments as a political leader and skilled orator and had also achieved prominence as a soldier and author".

Churchill's name has been used twice on Royal Navy warships. The first HMS Churchill was an American destroyer, formerly the USS Herndon, that was commissioned into the Royal Navy in 1940. The second was a nuclear attack submarine launched in 1968 and decommissioned in the late 1980s.

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# Porter set for new fight over homes for votes

THE former leader of Westminster City Council, Dame Shirley Porter, will today begin her latest attempt to clear her name over the homes-for-votes scandal.

The Tesco heiress will ask the Court of Appeal to overturn the Divisional Court's decision to surcharge her £27 million for her role in gerrymandering and social engineering as leader of the flagship Tory council in the 1980s.

Her lawyers will argue that she is a political scapegoat who has been unfairly persecuted for pursuing a controversial policy that she was convinced was legal.

Dame Shirley and David Weeks, her deputy, were found guilty in 1996 of wilful misconduct by the district auditor, John Magill, and surcharged the £31 million that he ruled their illegal policies

**Dame Shirley is in court for the next round of £27m battle, reports Mark Henderson**

had cost the council. The verdict was confirmed in December 1997 by the Divisional Court, though the surcharge was cut to £27 million and four others originally found guilty were acquitted.

The policy of "designating" council homes for sale to improve the chances of the Conservatives in key wards was designed to "achieve unlawful electoral advantage", the court

found. Mr Weeks is also appealing.

The hearing will coincide with the publication of a draft Bill to establish a new ethical framework for local government. In future, allegations such as those made against Dame Shirley are likely to be dealt with by the criminal courts.

Dame Shirley is expected to attend the appeal, in a rare appearance in this county. Since Mr Magill announced in 1994 that he was "minded" to find her and colleagues guilty, she has lived mainly in Israel and California. Almost all her £70 million fortune is now tied up in the charitable Porter Foundation in Israel, raising concerns that Westminster is unlikely to retrieve any money if Dame Shirley loses her appeal.

Her legal team is headed by



Dame Shirley Porter: her lawyers will tell the hearing that she believed legal advice that the policy was lawful

Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC, the Liberal Democrat peer and prominent human rights lawyer who took on the Government over the publication of Peter Wright's *Spycatcher* book and represented George

Blake, the Soviet spy. Lord Neill of Bladen was originally engaged as leading counsel, but he withdrew from the case after a public outcry over the conflict of interest it might create with his role as Chairman

of the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

Dame Shirley's legal team will challenge the court's ruling that she could not have believed the policy was lawful, even though she had taken ad-

vice that it was. They will also focus on the length and alleged one-sided nature of Mr Magill's investigation, in which the auditor acted as "investigator, prosecutor, judge, jury and executioner".

## Public may get say in who sits as a judge

BY FRANCES GIBB  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

PLANS for changing the way judges are appointed by including lay people in the selection system are expected to be put forward within this Parliament by the Lord Chancellor.

Lord Irvine of Lairg gave a strong hint on Saturday that he intended to soon begin consultations on a Judicial Appointments Commission, a body to advise him on appointing judges.

The Lord Chancellor, who was addressing more than 100 lawyers in London at the Ethnic Minority Lawyers Conference, did not indicate his own view on the controversial proposal, which would run into opposition from many judges. Opponents fear it could lead to judges being appointed to represent a particular sex or minority group.

Lord Irvine also announced a new scheme in which ethnic minority lawyers thinking of applying for the junior part-time judicial posts would be encouraged to shadow judges to see what the work is like.

## Straw orders 'Domesday' map of crime

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A "DOMESDAY" map of crime is being drawn up as part of Jack Straw's drive to curb criminal and anti-social behaviour.

For the first time local authorities and the police in England and Wales are under a statutory duty to produce a crime reduction strategy for their districts. They must first give a detailed audit of criminal behaviour in their areas.

The guide to crime and disorder will highlight the levels of robbery, burglary, car thefts and sexual offences in all parts of the country. Crime "hot spots" should also be identified in the audits being carried out in each of 438 council areas in England and Wales which are now being collected in the Home Office.

But a quarter of local councils and police have failed to produce a satisfactory audit, and Whitehall has accused them of providing only sketchy details of the extent of crime and disorder in their communities.

The crime and disorder audit is part of Mr Straw's policy

of forcing councils and other agencies to join police in taking responsibility for cutting crime and promoting safety on the streets.

The move is part of Mr Straw's overall drive to reverse the "walk-on-by" society and encourage everyone to have a part in curbing crime and disorder on the streets.

Many local audits have been frank about their areas. The London Borough of Hackney admits that all categories of serious crime are high and that it has a worse record than neighbouring boroughs such as Tower Hamlets, Islington, and Newham. Hackney's candid report, which lists crime "blackspots" in the borough, has won praise from the Home Office.

But about 110 of the audits, including those from Newcastle upon Tyne and the City of Westminster, are not considered by Whitehall to be addressing the real crime problems of their areas.

The audit will be repeated throughout the country in three years.

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OVERSEAS NEWS 11

# Europe spars over heir to Santer throne

THE European Union moved closer last night to endorsing Romano Prodi, the former Italian Prime Minister, for the European Commission presidency but several states, possibly including France, were backing Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister.

At a final ministerial session before a vital EU summit in Berlin on Wednesday, diplomats said Signor Prodi appeared to have majority backing as best qualified to take over from Jacques Santer, who resigned with his whole team last week in a scandal over bad leadership.

Faced with a power vacuum in Brussels, EU leaders are under pressure to settle on a new presidential name in Berlin, but the necessary unanimous decision would require the three Nordic states plus Belgium and Luxembourg to withdraw backing for Mr Kok.

Signor Prodi's candidature won a new boost last night when Spain, which had been backing its own man for the Commission job, came out in support of the Italian. Abel Matutes, the Spanish Foreign Minister, hailed Signor Prodi's competence and qualifications for running the Commission, adding: "He has a Mediterranean sensibility which means Spain can fully support him." This confirmed that Spain was no longer lobbying for Javier Solana, the Secretary-General of Nato.

The foreign ministers last night also sketched the outlines of a potential deal in Berlin to end the wrangle over EU finances. Desperate to reach an accord as a time of EU crisis, Germany has softened some of its own demands and has dropped the debate to scrap the British budget rebate, posing only adjustments to it. Ironically, the Commission crisis is widely seen as making a deal on the budget reform much more likely in Berlin.

**Nordic states back Dutchman for top job, writes Charles Bremner**

cause of the need to achieve something quickly to start extracting the Union from its malaise. Eager for any deal, Germany is expected to accept only a modest cut in its own £7 billion net contribution to the EU budget. In a conciliatory move intended to smooth the way for Signor Prodi, Italy has told Bonn that it can accept a change in the finance calculations that will raise its own annual contribution, according to diplomats.

French diplomatic sources added fuel for fresh speculation over the incoming Commission by indicating that President Chirac had told Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, that he could accept Mr Kok in the top post, although he favoured Signor Prodi. The Dutch leader has said he is not interested in the job. But last night he was understood to be seriously considering his position, according to British officials, and might yet throw his hat into the ring.

Germany, France and Britain are all understood to have told Herr Schröder, the EU's president-in-office, that they would back Signor Prodi, who is the only declared candidate for the Santer succession.

Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Belgium and Luxembourg are all believed to have argued that Mr Kok is best qualified to force through the deep reform that northern Europe believes to be vital for the Commission's salvation. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, last night presented the ministers with Tony Blair's own six-point plan for revamp-

ing the Brussels executive, which he announced in the House of Commons last week. British officials said that Mr Blair had spoken about the Commission crisis to Mr Kok twice in recent days.

Herr Schröder is playing down the prospect of an accord on the senior Commission post in Berlin.

A new line-up is likely to be proposed in early April, along with a president. A big question is whether the incoming team will include former members tainted in the report which brought down Mr Santer. Britain wants to reappoint Sir Leon Brittan and Neil Kinnock, its two Commissioners, but the European Parliament, Germany, France and other states are believed to want an entirely new body.

Leading article, page 21



President Jiang tours Venice from a gondola yesterday at the beginning of his three-nation European tour. He has already faced criticism from the Vatican over China's treatment of its ten-million strong Christian minority

## Jiang takes a slow boat from China

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

JIANG ZEMIN, the Chinese President, yesterday toured Venice at the start of an 11-day European trip which will take him to Austria and Switzerland as well as Italy.

Diplomats said Beijing hoped to bolster its ties with Europe at a time when its relations with the United States are under strain.

But Italian officials said they would convey to Mr Jiang European "unease" over Beijing's crackdown on dissent, including the imprisonment of dissidents seeking to set up an opposition party.

Mr Jiang's visit has been overshadowed by criticism from the Vatican of China's suppression of its Christian minority, and in particular the persecution of its ten million Roman Catholics.

It called on Beijing to release two Catholic bishops detained without trial for three years. Mr Jiang will today meet Italian leaders in Rome, but no meeting is scheduled with the Pope.

## Joschka can win where Oskar failed

Europe is stumbling towards a compromise at the Berlin summit this week but Gerhard Schröder, the Chancellor, having completed his 14-nation European tour, was upbeat at the weekend.

There will be rows about money but the Chancellor has an even chance of being able to portray himself this time next week as Europe's saviour. He certainly needs the favourable publicity.

Only a few months into his chancellorship he has already reached his first crossroads. The road to disaster beckons: a bungled summit, a difficult Social Democratic conference on April 2 in which he only scrapes into the party chairman-

tions, the grumbling Greens fall into line even over the Kosovo war.

For the Chancellor to find his way on to this golden road he needs Joschka Fischer, the student revolutionary who with a sure political touch and an iron will has converted his ramshackle Green Party into an instrument of power.

Herr Fischer, once a plump clown, now a wiry strategist, is the most effective Foreign Minister since Hans-Dietrich Genscher. He believes the euro is a vital step towards political unity.

He wants a stronger European Parliament, a more pronounced European defence identity and a European constitution.

In contrast to Oskar Lafontaine, Herr Fischer likes Britain and understands it (like many of the 1968 generation, Money Python was the only thing he bothered to watch on television). The Foreign Minister, who ran last week's Cabinet meeting in the absence of the Chancellor, is critical to the future success of Herr Schröder.

First, since Oskar's fall he has become the main conviction politician in the Cabinet. He believes in "ethical" policy, in pushing human rights to centre stage, in a Germany constantly aware of its history; the minister is one of the few to speak with passion about the need to enlarge the European Union eastwards. If the Berlin summit succeeds, it will be primarily the work of Herr Fischer and his lieutenants.

Second, he has found a way of contributing responsibly to government in spite of his chaotic party.

Herr Fischer, rather than Herr Schröder, is Germany's Tony Blair. Only on the issue of nuclear power, where the interests of two sections of the Green Party overlap and conflict, is there a problem.

The Chancellor can certainly survive without Oskar. Whether he will flourish depends on Joschka.

### INSIDE GERMANY

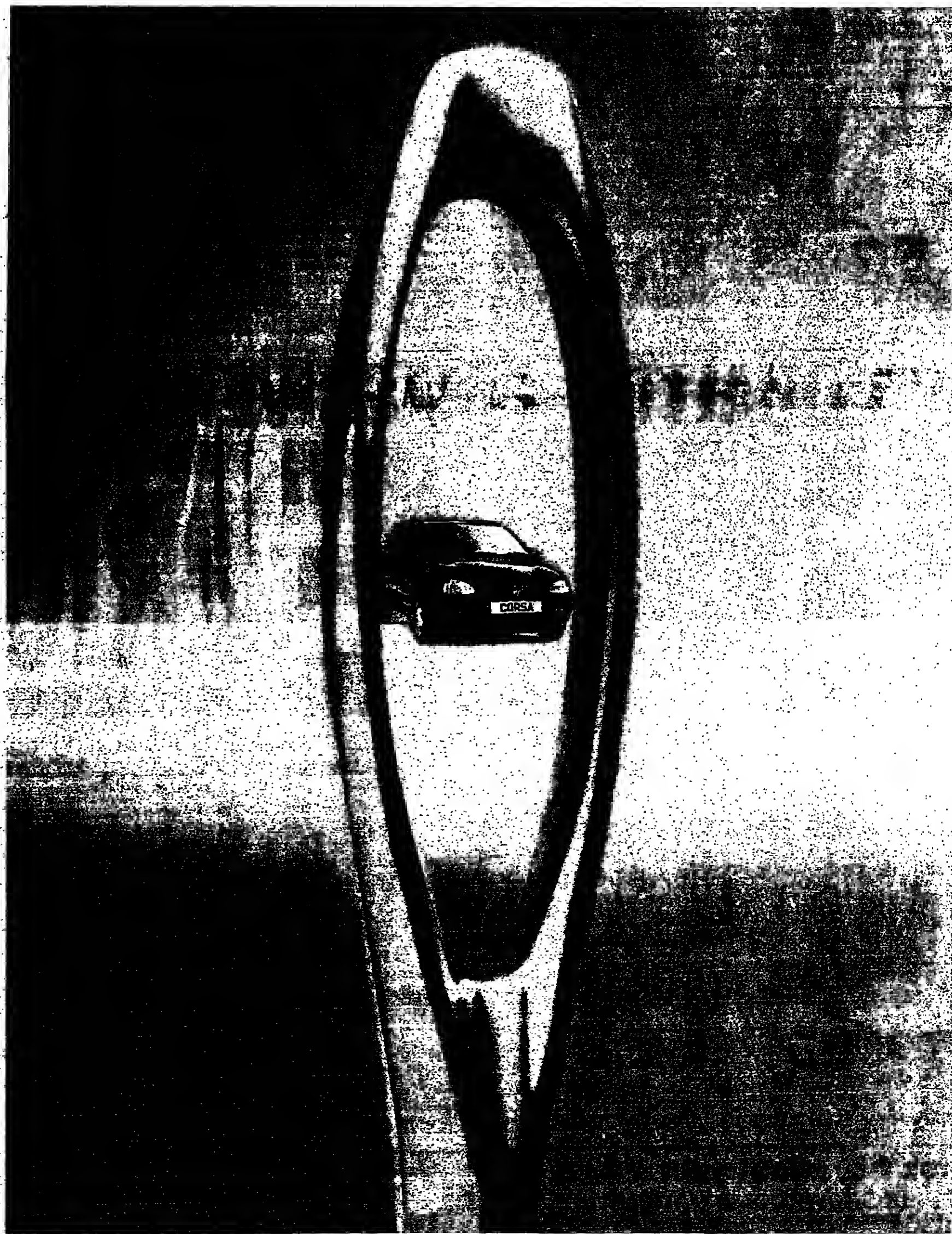


BY ROGER BOYES

ship, regional election defeats for which he is blamed, the unravelling of deals with the Greens, the economy running out of steam, rising unemployment, reforms blocked and a bloody war in Kosovo.

In this scenario Germany plunges from crisis to crisis at the precise moment that it shifts the hub of power from Bonn to Berlin. The Chancellor could just rescue himself by forming a grand coalition with the Christian Democrats.

The second path projects Herr Schröder into a position of power similar to that of Helmut Kohl at his peak. This week's summit goes well, a Commission president - Romano Prodi - is quickly agreed, the Social Democrats accept his authority, he wins well in the European and regional elec-



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# Neighbours drag Zambia into war

FROM SAM KILEY  
IN JOHANNESBURG

ZAMBIA appears poised to be the latest African nation that is sucked into a war with its neighbours as bombings and an influx of refugees raise fears of a widening of the civil wars in Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Until now it has managed to maintain a precarious "neutrality" in the two civil wars across its borders. But these wars have now blurred into one and dragged in eight other countries.

Tensions with neighbouring Angola have been running high since the Government in Lusaka accused President Chiluba's regime of backing the rebel Unita for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) faction. Now, as Congo rebels, in alliance with Unita, advance south towards Lubumbashi, the capital of Katanga province, which sits close to the Zambian border, Mr Chiluba is under pressure to take sides.

His instinct is to repeat the support he gave to the Rwanda and Uganda-backed rebels of the Congo who crossed Zambian territory during their campaign to oust Mobutu Sese Seko two years ago. But this strategy would immediately provoke an attack by Angola on his western flank.

The Congo rebels are once again closing in on his borders. This week 350 Congolese soldiers and about 6,000 refugees fled into northeast Zambia. The soldiers have been dis-



armed, but if more of them pour into Zambia, the rebels are bound to pursue them.

Godson Machona, of the independent newspaper *The Post* in Lusaka, said: "There is a real possibility that Zambia will be dragged into these civil wars... There are already rumours that Unita passed through Zambian territory to join up with their allies in the Congo. This has angered the Angolan Government, which has troops fighting on the side of the Congo Government. In addition, Zimbabwean soldiers fighting for the Congo Government have also been crossing through our territory, so they could be attacked here by the Congo rebels." He added: "The fact is that Zambia's borders are unmaned."

There are many incentives for the antagonists to cross into Zambia. The Angolan Government, or its allies from Zimbabwe, Namibia, Chad, and Sudan, will be tempted to attack Unita refugee camps inside Zambia's western border

to cut Unita's links with the Congo rebels. Intelligence sources say Congo's rebels have already acquired Sam-16 anti-aircraft missiles. Last week a Zimbabwean jet was shot down with one of them. Angola and its allies would like to cut Unita's supply lines through Zambia, as much as the Congo rebels are anxious to stop Congo's allies being supplied via Zambia's rail network.

There is some evidence that one or other side has already

started a campaign of insurgency inside Zambia. Last month more than a dozen bombs were planted in Lusaka and the economically vital copper-belt area of northern Zambia. The Angolan Embassy was among the targets. The bombings have so far defied explanation by Zambian officials and American investigators.

"Nothing is certain other than that Zambia is trapped and about to become the meat in a terrible sandwich. There seems little Zambians can do other than cross their fingers or pray," a Western diplomat in the Zambian capital said.

□ Debt burden: An Oxford survey to be released today will reinforce its campaign to erase the debt burden of the world's poorest countries by highlighting the burden on education. The report states that 125 million children of primary school age are out of school, and that by 2015, 75 per cent of children out of school will be Africans, a tragic development when "education saves lives" and reduces crimes.



Mr Clinton with congresswoman Loretta Sanchez at a weekend Democrats' meeting in the White House

# Monica spoof tickles Clinton

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton played the good sport as he sat through a merciless satire of the Monica Lewinsky affair. A chorus of Lewinskys, each with angled beret and a soiled blue dress, paraded on stage.

"Trial of the Century," screamed the "Monica-ettes". "Who dreamt it would star reams of naughty prose, a girl's dirty clothes...?" A tenor playing one of Mr Clinton's lawyers sang a send-up of *Love is a Many-Splendoured Thing* as "Sex is a definition thing". Bruce Springsteen's *Born in the USA* was reworked as "Caught by his DNA".

The event was the annual white-tie dinner of the Gridiron Club where senior Washington journalists put on a series of skits lampooning politicians. Their aim is to singe their victims but not burn them and Mr Clinton said they had succeeded. "I had a wonderful time," he claimed.

Still, some Gridiron members were concerned that the humour was too rough in places. But when it was his turn to speak, Mr Clinton

poked fun at himself. He conceded that 1998 was an awful year: "It was a year I wouldn't wish on my worst enemy." Then after a pause, he said: "I take that back" — and everyone guessed that he had Kenneth Starr, the special prosecutor, in mind.

Mr Clinton, having once boasted of his faith in "a place called Hope", his early boyhood home in Arkansas, said: "I want you to know, through it all, I still believe in a place called Hell." He mused about titles for his memoirs, including "Beyond Hope", and said he had settled on "My Story and I'm Sticking to It".

Mr Clinton enjoyed his heartiest laugh when a Hillary Clinton figure, dressed as the Statue of Liberty, sang of her Senate hopes to the tune of New York's "My White-water blues, are washing away, I'll show those right-wing nuts, this broad's got more than guts..."

Mrs Clinton did not see the spoof. She and daughter Chelsea had already left Washington for a 12-day trip to Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia.



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Mark Chavunduka, 37, and Ray Choto, 33, both editors of the Zimbabwean newspaper *The Standard*, are to challenge the constitutionality of a law used to incarcerate and torture them (Michael Dwyer writes). Mr Chavunduka, 37, editor of the country's *The Standard*, and Mr Choto, 33, its chief reporter — seen in London where they are being treated after their ordeal —

### WORLD IN BRIEF

## Thousands flee Borneo as 96 die in ethnic fight

Sambas, Indonesia: Hundreds of euphoric warriors, some wearing shirts stained with victims' blood, pillaged and burnt abandoned homes on Borneo island yesterday after ethnic slaughter left at least 96 people dead. A chunk of flesh dangled by a string from the spear of one fighter, who said it was the heart of a man he had killed. A few carried ears and pieces of scalp.

Ritual savagery has consumed a coastal region near the Malaysian border since gangs of ethnic Malay, Dayak and Bugis men set upon immigrants from Madura island last week. For the most part, the military has kept clear of the conflict. More than 15,000 Madurese — many have suffered frequent attacks despite having lived for decades in Borneo — have fled.

## Finns re-elect centrists

Helsinki: The Finnish opposition Centre Party looked likely to return to power after narrowly beating the ruling Social Democrats and Conservatives in elections, preliminary results showed. Electoral commission officials said the Centre won 25.2 per cent of the vote, the Prime Minister Paavo Lipponen's SDP received 23 per cent and the co-ruling Conservatives gained 21.1 per cent. (Reuters)

## New Queen for Jordan



Amman: King Abdullah of Jordan has bestowed on his wife, Princess Rania, left, the title of queen, palace sources said. The Princess, 28, was born in Kuwait of Palestinian parents and the couple were married in June 1993. The status of Queen Noor, 47, the American-born fourth wife of the late King Hussein, will not be affected. King Abdullah has declared her son, Prince Hamzah, 18, to be his heir. (Reuters)

## 1,000 Kurds arrested

Diyarbakir: Violence and a police crackdown marked the Kurdish new year in Turkey on Sunday, with police arresting 1,000 people across the country and putting the Kurdish-dominated southeast under a virtual state of siege. Tension has already been running high after a surge of violent attacks blamed on Kurdish rebels seeking to avenge the capture of Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish Workers' Party leader. (AP)

## Bushmen regain land

Ashebur: South Africa's first inhabitants got back some of their lost homeland when Thabo Mbeki, the Deputy President, signed a restitution settlement with a tribe of Kalahari Bushmen. The settlement gave the 100-strong Khomani San community regained 100,000 acres of the Kalahari after the Government spent 15 million rand (about £1.6 million) to buy out the occupying white farmers. (AFP)



# Battery farm bears milked for medicine

THE brochure for the Ruili Dianye pharmaceutical factory, where 230 black bears are milked for the bile from their gall bladders, says reassuringly that the animals "enjoy themselves in a comfortable environment".

But a correspondent who visited the place, opened in 1988 near China's border with Burma in southwestern Yunnan province, and also known — with some exaggeration — as Ruili Wild Animal Ranch, saw bears in 5ft by 2ft 6in cages. The factory is little better than a prison camp for them.

The animals were unable to turn round in the cages and some groaned either in pain or grief, or swung to and fro in a manner suggesting extreme frustration or mental disturbance. Some had red, raw stomach wounds, where a steel catheter had been inserted into their sides attached to a plastic tube which carried the precious bile to a receptacle.

The bear bile, siphoned off every few days, is used for treating liver problems, shock from severe burns, haemorrhoids, conjunctivitis and sinusitis and even some cancers. The gall bladders are used for serious liver diseases, including cancer and cirrhosis.

The Dianye factory is several miles outside Ruili, in pleasant rural surroundings beside the Jiele reservoir.

The correspondent had not expected to be allowed to visit but expressed an interest in purchasing such products as bear bile wine and oral bear bile liquid, and was invited to make a tour.

The young female attendants, although they asked the visitor to refrain from taking photographs, seemed pleasant enough and did not seem cruel or even unkind to animals. One demonstrated the size of a cub recently born there.

Unofficial figures suggest that 8,000 to 10,000 bears are caged in China in battery bear farms like this. There are only about 12,000 left in the wild in China, and those being brought into captivity are mostly smuggled across the

China flouts law as animals suffer to meet demand for traditional remedies, writes James Pringle

border from Burma. These bear farms, distasteful though they are, are hardly worse than the West's battery hen farms or mink enclosures.

Some environmentalists argue that at least they take some of the pressure off bears in the wild, which are still hunted illegally, their bile being considered of a far superior quality.

Assistants here said that Hong Kong and South Korea represent the largest markets. There are probably more than 400 bears farms in China, producing nearly seven tonnes of bile a year.

Staff at the Dianye factory say that they breed bears, and certainly in some larger cages there were two together. They seemed to be holding one another for comfort. Some cubs are being reared, but the staff would not let them be seen.

The United Nations Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species bans the export of bear bile, along with rhinoceros horn and tiger parts, but all these trades still go on.

Even if these farms were outlawed in China it would make no difference. Drug trafficking, gambling and prostitution — all illegal — remain widespread. The vested interests of those in charge, who are unlikely to be dislodged any time in the near future, animal welfare groups believe.

A resident correspondent becomes inured to animal suffering in China, including their public torture for fun in zoos. Bear paws and fragment meat (dogmeat) are sometimes on the menu at official functions. Snakes are skinned alive for soup. Fish and shrimps are still alive at the table. Dogs await their fate in cages outside restaurants.

The Chinese in general treasure their traditional medicine, which has a history going back thousands of years, and they resent any foreign criticism. And, as many people here become more prosperous, the market for bear bile is growing.

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A bear in the allegedly "comfortable environment" at Dianye pharmaceutical factory

## Dope tourists reopen hippy trail to Laos

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PHNOM PENH

WHILE leaders of the Khmer Rouge were recently given a VIP tour of the country they tore apart, all seemingly forgotten, seven little old ladies in Phnom Penh's Russian market were arrested for selling marijuana which was, until recently, perfectly legal because it gives a bite to duck soup.

This was bad news for backpacking world travellers, the latter-day hippies, who had not stocked up at the market. Recently 200 cigarettes retailed there for just a few dollars — in the 1970s it was only a dollar for 200 reeters.

With the ending of decades of war in Cambodia, the surrender of most of the last Khmer Rouge, plus the recent opening of two border crossing points that can take backpackers from Thailand to Cambodia for the first time since the 1970s without a plane ticket, Phnom Penh is suddenly full of world travellers, young and not so young.

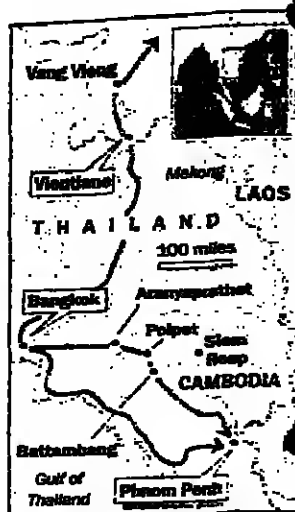
The same is true of the hippy trail from backpacker central in Bangkok's Khao San Road to Laos, where this nominally Communist state turns a blind eye to those wanting the opium experience, though opium is technically illegal.

For many younger travellers, carrying their copy of the current cult novel, Alex Garland's *The Beach*, these countries represent heaven.

Burma, although the source of most of the region's hard drugs, is less of a drug scene itself, and China is a no-no — executions of dealers are commonplace — but there are plenty of local addicts in both.

Yet the scene in Cambodia and Laos is no re-run of the flower power era. Both have changed since the 1970s when in Vientiane you could smoke grass, if so inclined, while enjoying the pleasures of Madame Lu's or the White Rose — both better unadulterated by substances.

The countries are different, both having endured terrible wars with horrific American bombing along the Ho Chi Minh trail, and in Cambodia the ruthless social experiment of the Khmer Rouge. There's



a harder-edged quality to both countries now," said one Phnom Penh resident. "They have lost something of their charm. The Cambodians in the 1970s were like babies, and they used to say they liked lying down watching the rice grow, while the Laotians were so laid back they liked to listen to it grow."

The backpackers are different, too. Instead of penniless kids, many travellers are stockbrokers or lawyers who have taken a year's sabbatical, and may have £30,000 to spend.

Anthony Alderson, general manager of the Foreign Correspondents Club in Phnom Penh, has been among the first to target backpackers.

"Some of the older ones had been in Asia in the 1970s and want to reacquaint themselves, perhaps relive, some youthful experience. But many others, here for the first time, are wowed by being away from a more predictable life in Europe or America."

"When I was on the road some years ago, our lives centred on the post office and poste restante where you could pick up your mail. Nowadays travellers keep in contact by e-mail; that is why we are opening an Internet cafe here."

People tend to be more cautious, too. The free-wheeling lifestyle is still there, but not so much of the charm has gone. Backpackers no longer wear flowers in their hair. And seven little old ladies are awaiting their day in court.

What we do to children

John le Carré

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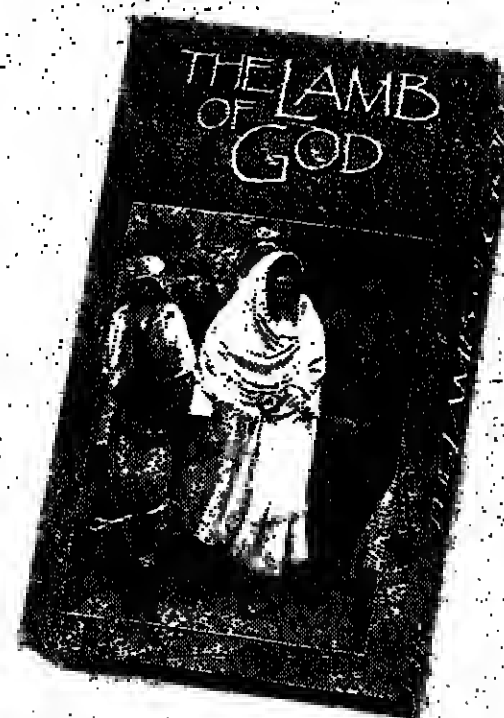
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Music men: Black Dyke Mills Brass Band

## We'd rather be in Bournemouth than LA

**G**off Whitely, the administrator of the Black Dyke Mills Brass Band, looks out of the window at the huge black mill chimney that dominates the landscape and gives a little chuckle.

"Well," he says, "I did wonder if we were doing the right thing when I said that we couldn't play at the Oscars because we were booked to play in Bournemouth. A bit of soul-searching went on. I have to admit. But we'd made a commitment and we had to keep to it. Simple as that."

If they had had different priorities, the world's most famous brass band would have been guests of honour at last night's glittering Oscars ceremony. Instead, with their values firmly entrenched in Middle England, they were in Bournemouth — a decision that astonished the showbiz world, where little is more coveted than an invitation to the Los Angeles celebrity fest.

"We're not pop stars, we're a brass

**Anne Barrowclough meets the world's most famous — and modest — brass band**

band ensemble," says Bob Childs, the principal euphonium player and assistant conductor, as he adjusts his scarlet and blue band jacket over his ample tummy. "Even if we could have got out of the Bournemouth concert, we wouldn't have, because the organisers are our friends."

From anyone else, this could sound like hubris. But the Black Dyke band know their place, and it is not amidst the hype and hypocrisy of LA. It's here, in Queensbury, West Yorkshire, where in 1855 John Foster, a mill owner, philanthropist and enthusiastic French horn player, decided to fund the local village band.

The members are revered, and once inside the bandroom, you understand why. Tatty and chilly, the room is also

sleeped in tradition. The music stands were made by Foster's joiners 150 years ago and there are shelves of scores from the last century.

"The bandroom's history weighs on you," admits Jim Watson, who has been the musical director for seven years. "You look around and realise you're just another guardian of the tradition."

"I came here as The Pro. I was a professor at the Royal Academy of Music and I'd played at Covent Garden. I had been roasted by the greatest maestros in the world. But I was over so terrified as when I stood in front of the band for the first time and had 25 pairs of Yorkshire eyes saying 'Go on, then, bloody show us'. I felt I had to prove myself to these men more than I'd ever had to prove myself before."

Band members give up much to be one of the Black Dyke men. Once they pass their audition, they accept that the band comes before everything. They don't get paid — concert fees cover expenses only — but most still put careers and families second. Everyone has another job: there are teachers, engineers, financial experts and shop assistants. They tour in holiday time and some take unpaid leave.

"To be honest," says Childs in his blunt way, "I think there would have been a few sighs of relief when we decided against the Oscars because one or two of the lads wouldn't have been able to afford the time off work."

The passion these men, gruff and silent in their daily lives, show for their music is extraordinary. Ask about their wives and they say "Oh, the womenfolk understand the band comes first". Ask about the band and they become as lyrical as the melodies they play.

When I ask Whitely, who joined

Black Dyke in 1957, why this is so, he stops stock still in front of an ancient photograph of the band and smiles. "I think it's because we northern men aren't very good at showing our emotions. We think a man who shows his feelings is a bit soft. But when we've got our music in front of us we can show everything we feel. I think that's why the band's as good as it is. Because it's only through the music that we can express our passions."

Matt Baker agrees: "It's when I'm playing my cornet that I show all my love and all my anger. This is where my emotions go now."

When Jim Watson was a boy all the children in his village were in the band. "It was as important as religion," he says. "More important, missing practice was worse than missing church. You learnt then never to let anyone down."

"That's the sort of morality that sticks with you. Always."

## What are we doing to our children?

The pressure put on children by private schooling is intolerable, argues Olivia Lichtenstein

**I**t is no secret that our education system is less than perfect. But those of us who might have thought that a return to the old grammar school system was the answer are probably wrong. One need only look at what is happening in the private system to see that such a move could be a mistake.

This is the time of year when parents metaphorically roll up their sleeves and prepare their offspring for battle. Victory is publicly celebrated, defeat concealed beneath a secret cloud of shame. We have just undergone this gruelling experience, one that is becoming increasingly common for middle-class parents, one that is especially painful for those middle-class parents who have sacrificed their socialist principles on the altar of their children's educational interests. A conspiracy of silence surrounds the ordeal. It is time to speak out.

I am talking about the 11-plus examination, which was purportedly abolished shortly before I was due to sit it years ago (I say purportedly, because I recall doing things referred to as "tests").

On the private school circuit there is no attempt at disguise: there it is, bold as brass on the front page of examination papers for entry to secondary school. It is all that we parents of 10- and 11-year-olds talk about. The pressure to do well is so acute that children already attending elite private preparatory schools are given extra tuition at weekends. They lose football, ballet and Nintendo privileges and inhabit an austere, monastic present. To make it worse, there is

no "common entrance" at this stage and each school holds its own exams. Your child may sit at least three three-hour examinations. What on earth are we doing to our children?

Oscar, my 10-year-old, laid out his heart on going to Latymer Upper School in Hammersmith, West London. He wanted to go there so much that I felt instantly nervous, in the way that you do when you are convinced that wanting something too much will preclude you from getting it. "Mum," he would say, "I'd be so proud to wear Latymer's uniform." As he went into Year 6 of his small private prep school, the atmosphere changed — this was the term for hard work and intensive preparation in the art of comprehension and mathematics. Little else mattered, beloved football fell by the wayside, history and science took second place and every one's attention was focused on entry to secondary school. Homework became serious business.

The interminable round of visiting schools for application ensued. Head teachers paid lip service with their avowals that they were seeking children who could contribute in many areas, not just eggheads who would gain the highest scores. At Latymer, when we saw the hundreds of parents inspecting the school, such words had an empty ring. With so many sitting the exam, how could they

select other than on the basis of scores alone?

We applied to three schools: Latymer, St Benedict's and Ibstock Place. I liked Latymer best, felt it was where he belonged. In his mind he was already wearing the uniform, playing for the football team, drawing in the art room and performing in the soon-to-be-completed arts centre. Despite our attempts to persuade him that the other schools had as much to offer, he was a "Latymer boy". His school agreed: "Don't worry. He'll get in. He's our big hope for Latymer."

As the "Latymer" exam neared, Oscar became increasingly anxious. We told him to do his best and not to worry. On the day, his body was taut with nerves and a desire to do well. I left him at the gates of the school as instructed and burst into tears. At 10, young for his year and not very tall, he looked too small to have to go through all this. Rumours abounded: 500 boys were sitting for 100 places, then 800 for 50 places. I spent the next three hours touching all the wood I could find, watching the clock and trying to transmit energy to Oscar. I even found myself invoking the spirit of my mother and asking her to help him. She was an academic with a brilliant mind, so this was, I reasoned, very much her sphere.

Oscar thought the exam was hard, but that he had done OK. "When I got the English paper I didn't feel like doing it, so I kicked myself and said 'you're going to do this'." So why did I have a nagging feeling that all would not be well?

Oscar had done well in his exams for St Benedict's and Ibstock Place: both invited him for interview, both offered him a place. But Latymer did not wish to interview him — his performance in the examination had been poor. There, I've said it publicly. I felt grief-stricken. How could I disappoint my son with this news?

I couldn't bear that they could reject him without having met him. I accept that this is a partisan view, but Oscar is a child whom people remember. Lively, inquisitive, humorous and charming, he has a talent for life. Academically, he can be erratic: one day he will come top of the class, the next, somewhere near the middle. It depends on whether he is concentrating. He is 10, after all. He writes poetry that displays a talent for the music and rhythm of language, and a grasp of metaphor.

I wrote to Latymer's headmaster, asking the school to interview Oscar. "If, after interview, you still feel he's not right, I will accept it." Oscar's prep school was astonished that he had been refused interview and rang Latymer exhorting it to reconsider. I know I may have too rosy a view of my son's capabilities, but his school, the people who teach and see him every day and have intimate knowledge of his academic capabilities, agreed

I feel I've failed him by being unable to put things right

there might have been a mistake. They said Oscar's performance on the day was not indicative of his performance in general, that he had slipped through the net and that steps must be taken to reverse this.

Latymer agreed to look again at his exam papers and consider his school report — then declined again to interview him. It seems it was selecting the boys with the highest scores and that the school report means little. Do schools now, in their fight to win our business and be top of the league table, wish to turn out only stockbrokers and accountants? Is there no longer room for poets, actors, writers, footballers and dreamers?

On hearing he was not to be interviewed, Oscar sobbed on my shoulder saying "I failed, I hate myself". Surely this is not good for a 10-year-old. Whatever my assurances that the school is the loser, Oscar feels he has failed something big. He will go to St Benedict's. It has a good record for pastoral care and may prove a better place for him. It offers an "old-fashioned" education. Maybe it is for the best; perhaps Latymer would not have been right for him. But I fear that in some indefinable way, Oscar is being denied something that should by rights be his.

**S**hould one exam on one January day decide a child's educational fate? Shouldn't schools put as much importance on reports from the children's schools? Shouldn't parents be able to discuss matters with a school when they feel things have gone wrong?

We must look at what is happening to our children: something is seriously awry. Oscar is one of thousands who have undergone the 11-plus ordeal this year and, doubtless, one of thousands who have had to swallow the bitter pill of rejection so early in life. For thousands of others there is no choice: they must go wherever they can and get whatever education they can. Utopian though it may seem, I feel that if we were all to send our children to local state schools, the situation would be better. Meanwhile, I will always worry that Oscar may have missed an important opportunity, and that I have failed him by being unable to put things right.

● The author is the editor of BBC's Inside Story. Oscar has given permission for this article to be written and published.



Olivia Lichtenstein and Oscar: "On hearing that he was not to be interviewed by Latymer, he sobbed on my shoulder, saying 'I failed. I hate myself'."

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CHANGING TIMES

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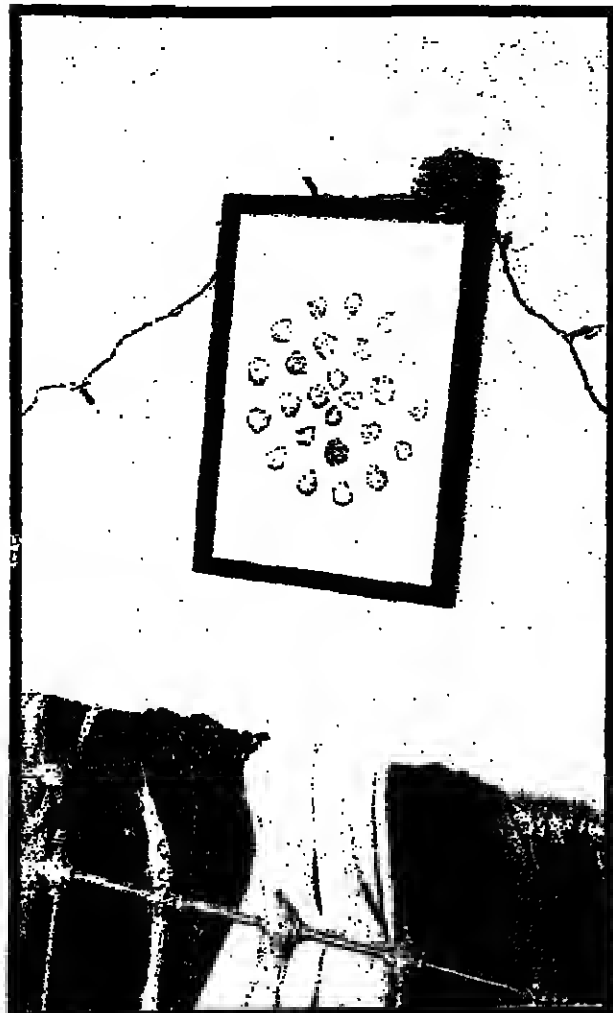
Introduced by the Editor of The Times, Peter Stothard, the internationally acclaimed author will talk about his life and work, and read from his latest novel *Single & Single*. If you would like to ask John le Carré a question, please e-mail [johnlecarre@the-times.co.uk](mailto:johnlecarre@the-times.co.uk). For more details visit The Times/le carré website at [www.the-times.co.uk/lecarre.html](http://www.the-times.co.uk/lecarre.html).

The event, which forms part of The Word literary festival, will be held at the LSE Peacock theatre, Portugal Street, off Kingsway, London WC1. Tickets cost £9 and can be booked on 0171-863 8222.

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Matthew Williamson at home, where rococo meets Ibiza  
Top and bottom left: bedroom colours are calm or intense  
Above right: the autumn/winter collection at A la Mode, Browns, Harvey Nichols and Joseph  
Left: the studio's eclectic mix of fuchsia silk inspired the colour of the walls  
Right: memories of Rajasthan



## CAMILLE MICELI Global head of PR for Louis Vuitton

Describe your personal style.  
A simplified version of the chic Parisienne look.

Do you change your style according to the season?  
In summer I buy cheaper clothes; in winter, when fabrics are more important, I buy more luxurious clothes, such as cashmere.

Where do you like to shop?  
I buy everywhere. Small street stalls in New York, Joseph for essentials, eclectic shops in the Marais in Paris, which don't just sell clothes but accessories for the home, and an Indian shop on Rue de l'Université.

Who is your favourite designer?  
I don't have a favourite. I am interested rather in what they do. I like the way Azzedine Alaïa works, the intelligence of Lagerfeld's clothes, the way Marc Jacobs thinks so Amer-



ican and translates this into fashion, and anything that Gaultier is doing at the moment.

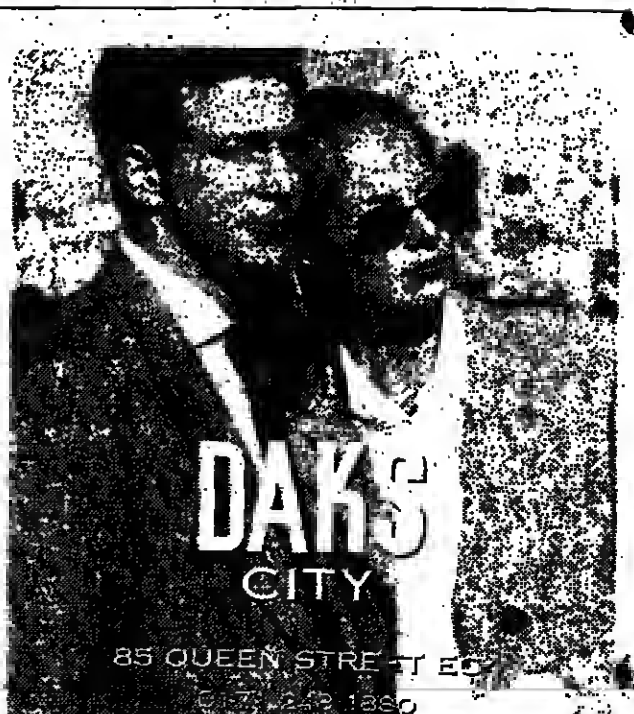
What is your greatest style weakness?  
Shoes. I own about 400 pairs. Before I moved flats I had a problem housing them. I even used to keep them in the kitchen. I continue to buy - but I never lend them to anyone.

What is the most expensive item you have ever bought?  
An old Hermès handbag. It was so expensive, even though I bought it at a flea market.

Style-wise, what can you not live without?  
My American Tank watch, by Cartier.

Whose style do you most admire?  
Amanda [Lady] Harlech's.

What is your style motto?  
When depressed, always go shopping.



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# THE TIMES ARTS



**OPERA:** Rodney Milnes reviews English National Opera's new show, while (right) Richard Morrison reveals its plans



Mephistopheles (Alastair Miles) and the dying Faust (David Rendall) in ENO's worthy but doomed staging of Boito's lightweight take on Goethe

## Sympathy for this Devil

The story so far. A year ago the Royal Opera and Bernard Haitink gave a couple of superlative concert performances of Boito's *Mefistofele* which, despite their quality, revealed why the piece hadn't been staged here for more than 40 years. That, we felt with a sigh of relief, was that for another generation, and our minds boggled when English National Opera announced a new production. The only vaguely interesting aspect of last Thurs-

day's first night was that the work's inadequacy should have been even more exposed in staged performance than in concert form.

Not to mince words, *Mephistopheles* is twaddle. Boito's attempt to encapsulate the whole of Goethe's *Faust* in two hours of music is doomed on that account alone: the drama-burg is hopelessly jerky; we never know who Faust or Margareta are — they are just lay figures who sing a bit — and it's hard to discern any reason

**Mephistopheles  
Conseum**

for the *Walpurgisnacht* scene or the Classical Sabbath being there at all.

Add to this the problem of there being no music to speak of, unless forever repeating a phrase a semitone higher and hoping for the best counts as composition. The fragmentary, broken-backed tunes

when they come, are of quite astonishing banality. By comparison, Gounod's much despised little *opéra comique* is a work of blazing genius.

So why is *Mefistofele* ever done? Well, Boito's libretto employs colourful syntax, hardly matched in Carlos Wagner's serviceable new translation; it shows off any company's chorus, and the title role is a gift for a good, hammy bass. Good basses are normally restricted to singing heavy fathers, high priests and introspective de-

pots; they must love being allowed to gambol about a bit. Alastair Miles is a very good bass indeed: he sang pungently and beautifully, and gamboled discreetly. David Rendall (Faust) was on top form, sounding happier and more heroic the higher he went, and Susan Patterson (Margareta) fielded thrilling tone and excellently clear diction. Leigh Melrose and Christine Rice filled the minor roles efficiently, and the chorus was superb.

Ian Judge, together with his set and costume designers John Gunter and Tina Goodchild, deserves some sort of medal for keeping us all awake. This is a romp: real devils with horns and tails, cherubim throwing paper darts, choirs of angels doing a quick change on stage into scarlet punks. We get the old belling joke, and Mephistopheles takes over the conducting just before the interval — tough on Oliver von Dohnányi, who does what he can with the empty score.

There's a slight danger in allowing Miles to mime extreme boredom during some of the worst love music and to read a magazine at the Classical Sabbath (could that privilege please be extended to the audience?), and if you send the Heavenly Host up skyhigh at the beginning, then doesn't the end seem even emptier than it already is? Minor quibbles: the piece doesn't deserve serious staging.

## Fighting talk at the Coliseum

In London's opera world the gloves are off. The Royal Opera is fighting it again. Its grant has been boosted. Its new American boss oozes optimism. The £213 million redevelopment has garnered good reviews, and glamorous Antonio Pappano is signed up as music director. Reduced ticket prices and tasty dishes have been announced for the December reopening. And Covent Garden has even managed an unprecedented three-month period in which it has managed to outrange almost nobody.

But that has only brought out the fighting spirit down the road at the Coliseum. English National Opera has a crumbling theatre and financial hardships. But on Friday its general director Nicholas Payne — himself a Covent Garden escapee — threw down the gauntlet by announcing an extraordinarily bold programme. "I genuinely wish all the best to my old mates in their spanking new building," says Payne, "without sounding unduly genuine." But I want to stress that ENO is putting on the most creative programme of opera to the largest audiences in the country: 86 per cent capacity in one of London's biggest theatres. We are offering 18 new stagings in 15 months. No opera house in the world is being as productive as that.

In fact Payne has reserved his masterstroke for autumn 2000, the very moment when the Royal Opera will be launching its first full season. That is when ENO will pay a remarkable homage to "400 years of Italian opera", staging no fewer than ten new productions of Italian opera, from Monteverdi to Dallapiccola, and perhaps even a new work. "Of course this is a statement," Payne admits. "It's saying: 'hey, look at us, we're staging far more interesting stuff than that lot up the road'. But I also think it's a brilliant way to celebrate the millennium."

But how will the creaky old Coliseum cope with this quick succession of new stagings, each by a different director? The trick is that one designer masterminded, Stefanos Lazaridis, will ensure that sets and lighting for each opera are distinctive without being logistically disruptive.

"When I first talked to him," Payne says, "it was a depressing three hours, at the end of which he told me what a lousy idea it was. A week later he phoned me and said 'that cra-

**Announcing 18 new shows, a big premiere and the Ring. ENO is resolved not to be second best**

zy idea of yours, I haven't been able to sleep for thinking about it." Lazaridis will make the sets "interlock", so reducing changeover time between shows. "It's what Peter Hall did at the Old Vic," says Payne. "You simply say 'no changeover' more than an hour and a half."



Payne: no other opera house is so creative

That's all 18 months away. But ENO's 1999-2000 season is not without thrills. Payne has talked the hot American director Peter Sellars into making his ENO debut with *Nixon in China*, the first time that John Adams's stunning piece of modern mythology will have been staged in London. "He won't replicate exactly what he did with *Nixon* before, but I wouldn't be surprised to see an airplane land on the Coliseum stage," Payne says.

Even newer will be *The Silver Tassie*, the premiere of Mark Anthony Turnage's epic

operatic version of O'Casey's First World War classic. Even now, 11 months before first night, the work is being workshopped at ENO's Studio. That allows performers to become familiar with Turnage's sounds, and the composer to change things that don't work. "I hope we will have a better opera as a result," Payne says. "It depresses me to think that at a time when the ENO management was very supportive of new opera, so many unrevivable things were premiered here. We hope the studio process will change that."

Elsewhere there will be two excursions into non-operatic religious works. Marking the 250th anniversary of Bach's death, his *St John Passion* will be staged by Deborah Warner at Easter next year. Then Phyllis Lloyd will stage Verdi's *Requiem* to end the Italian season. Why? "Because the millennium is in the widest sense a religious festival — and, for many people, going to the opera is a kind of spiritual pilgrimage," Payne says. "We are saying: forget the normal barriers of opera; these are great dramatic pieces, and great stories."

What of later plans? Payne is expansive and ever hopeful. He talks of collaborating with the National Theatre on a musical requiring big orchestra, singers and actors. "The most popular thing I did in ten years at Opera North was *Show Boat* in collaboration with the RSC," he admits cheerfully.

But he also has a dream of mounting a new ENO Ring cycle, conducted by the company's vibrant music director Paul Daniel. They will lumber up with concert performances from 2001, then stage it in 2003. Does ENO have enough big vocal guns for Wagner's marathon challenge? "On a long train journey a few weeks ago I took out a piece of paper and cast every role from singers either in the company or working regularly with us," Payne claims. The Royal Opera clearly has no monopoly on positive thinking.

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## Sticky earth

Having experienced *The Triumph of Time* as an icon of the 1970s in the *Towards the Millennium* series last year, the Birmingham audience seemed reluctant to follow Harrison Birtwistle into the 1980s. Certainly, Symphony Hall was far from sold on the opportunity to hear *Earth Dances*. Staying away, however, is probably better than wriggling, shuffling and coughing through the first half of the concert in uncomfortable anticipation of the second.

It is true that *Earth Dances* is not easy listening. Nor is *The Triumph of Time*. But the earlier work does have a very evident strength of purpose, an underlying sense of direction, an inevitability that is difficult to detect in the later one. *Earth Dances* is a score that heaves and shudders for nearly 40 minutes, going round in circles or striking off at tangents without actually getting anywhere and presenting such a consistently story surface that it offers little inducement to follow it.

Indeed, for all Simon Rattle's advocacy and all the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's professional determination to make the best of the situation, it is a work that shakes one's faith in Birtwistle's inspiration at that stage in his development.

The problem with *Earth*



**CONCERT**  
*Dances* was all the more acute in that it was preceded by Sofia Gubaidulina's Violin Concerto, *Offertorium*, which is certainly and unmistakably inspired. It is true that, although it begins rather than ends with Bach, it owes much to Berg, whose Violin Concerto is a persistent background presence.

But whatever the faults of *Offertorium*, the long outpouring of solo melody in the last movement must be one of the most lyrically effective episodes the 1980s have to offer. Had Kennedy been there to perform it, as originally scheduled, the audience might have been quieter, but one could scarcely have asked more of Vadim Repin than he actually gave in terms of commitment and sustained beauty of sound under long-term emotional and technical pressure.

Kurtág's *Grabstein für Stephan* was a brilliantly chosen opener for the concert. It offers little in the way of comfort, but it clears conventional modes of listening and thinking out of the way in no more than a few minutes.

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# It's a fine old mess — but no new Reich

Britain could find a new role after a week of European high farce

Euro-sceptics can sleep securely in their beds. Sub-editors at the *Daily Mail* and *The Sun* can put away their Euro-bashing headlines. We are not about to be faced by an over-mighty Germany or by a European superstate. The reality is the opposite — confusion, uncertainty, weak leadership and introspection. The grand European vision of the Helmut Kohl era has been replaced by the tentative pragmatism of Gerhard Schröder.

The closer you get to German politicians — as I have just done during the annual *Königswinter* conference — the cloudier the picture becomes. Oskar Lafontaine's self-destruction has given Herr Schröder a second chance. But his position is very different from that of Tony Blair. The Social Democratic Party is still nearer to old rather than new Labour at the grass roots. While Herr Schröder should be approved as party chairman-leader in three weeks, he will find it hard to impose his *Neue Mitte*-Third Way approach. The coalition itself also remains unstable.

The direction of policy post-Lafontaine also remains unclear. The former Finance Minister fell both because he was never comfortable with the job and because he faced growing opposition from German business and in the rest of Europe. But a strategy for deregulation and structural reform has yet to be developed.

In Europe also, the German hand is uncertain. Its willingness to bear sacrifices and pay costs in the name of Europe (or rather French farmers) is fast disappearing as national and taxpayer interests assert themselves.

Herr Schröder wants to reduce Germany's large net contribution to the European budget. This depends on reforming the budget and the common agricultural policy to permit enlargement without raising total spending. While farm ministers have agreed sizeable cuts in farm prices, the resulting compensation in cash to farmers would cost more. France has so far successfully resisted proposals for national governments to take up or co-finance part of this bill. And there is no agreement on a scheme for phasing out such payments over time, known to CAP buffs as *degressivity*.

Consequently, the package to be discussed by heads of government in Berlin this week is an unsatisfactory mess. This is not the political will to push through radical reform, but, unlike the 1980s, there is no real desire for an increase in the overall budget. The likelihood is therefore that enlargement to the East will be delayed by three or four years to 2006.

Similarly, proposals for closer integration are also likely to be pushed back. The launch of the euro will lead to closer co-ordination of economic policies, but little more. Admittedly, Germany is keen to eliminate tax frontiers, and the position of the euro-bank market in London has not yet been safeguarded, but there are no

serious proposals for general tax harmonisation.

The spectre of a European superstate can be left to the lurid fantasies of Bernard Connolly. Indeed, the latest furore over the European Commission will further limit grandiose ambitions. There will now, quite rightly, be a big push for reorganisation and strengthening safeguards against fraud. There are doubts about how deep the changes will be, and about how tough Romano Prodi might be as a reforming President, but the Commission has been humbled.

These developments are mixed news for the Blair Government. The likely failure to agree any more than an interim budget deal is a setback. But it has also eased immediate pressures for Britain to renegotiate its rebate. Sceptics should be reassured that no one in the Government, including the most pro-European, is willing to put the rebate on the table. While it is a bit far-fetched to present this as a principled stand, Britain's net contributions do remain disproportionate to our relative wealth. Underlying this is the fear that any concession will be presented by the Tories and the sceptic press as "selling out Britain", even though the sums might be small.

British policymakers also see cracks in the Franco-German relationship which has driven European developments for nearly half a century. Tensions in the farm talks have created doubts in Paris. There is also not the personal closeness or automatic identity of interest of the Schmidt-Giscard or the Kohl-Mitterrand years.

Consequently, while publicly denying any intention of weakening the Franco-German axis, the British Government is keenly building up links with France on European defence (after the St Malo declaration of late 1998) and on economic reform with Germany (to be reflected in a Blair-Schröder statement in about a month).

British-German relations are undoubtedly closer, especially post-Lafontaine, than for a very long time. Cynics will argue that the Foreign Office is playing its favourite, and ultimately futile, game of trying to play off Paris and Bonn, since at the end of the day France's relationship with Germany always takes precedence over other links.

There is, however, at least an opportunity for Britain, if not to take a "lead" in the clichéd way, which is impossible outside the euro, to play a more positive and influential role. Mr Blair has shown this in his response to the Commission debacle. Gordon Brown has a similar chance, especially if he could learn to treat his fellow finance ministers more as partners than opponents. The dramas in Europe of the past fortnight — and with more dangerous ones to come soon in Kosovo — could mark a turning point, not in fulfilment of the sceptics' fears and hopes but towards Europe where Britain is at last at home.

peter.riddell@the-times.co.uk



Peter Riddell



## A choice of two evils

Elia Kazan's betrayal of his friends was the act of a man caught in the moral dilemma of his times

Early in 1956, Tennessee Williams wrote a letter to the young Ken Tynan, who was already a leading international theatre critic. He commented on the work of Elia Kazan, who had produced most of his plays on Broadway. "We just don't have another director over here with his way of bringing a script to violent, brilliant life."

Ken himself had been a great admirer of Kazan: in 1950 he thought that his production of Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* was "the best he had seen since the War", but he later came to feel, as is quoted in Kathleen Tynan's *Life*, that Kazan had "come to worship energy for its own sake". We cannot recapture Elia Kazan's work as a stage director, but he also made important films, including *East of Eden* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. He was given an honorary lifetime Oscar last night — subject to any protests that may have been made after this article went to press. One of his films is among the greatest ever made, up there with *Citizen Kane*. That is *On the Waterfront* and in it Kazan directed the best performance Marlon Brando ever gave.

On the *Waterfront* was made in 1954: it is a tough, social-realist film about life on the docks. Kazan has been a lifelong liberal; he is a man of the Left. The film is also a moral polemic. The argument is that there is a duty to oppose evil, in this case gangsters with union links, even if it means betraying friends, relations or personal obligations.

The date of the film is significant. In 1952 Elia Kazan appeared before the House of Representatives Committee on Un-American Activities. There he not only stated that he had once been a member of the American Communist Party but also named eight other people who to his knowledge had also been members. That damaged and may have ruined their careers. On the *Waterfront* is Elia Kazan's answer to E.M. Forster's observation that, if faced with the choice between betraying his friend and betraying his country, he hoped he would have the courage to betray his country.

I went to the United States on several visits in the 1950s. I even corresponded with Senator Joe McCarthy's office, though for the innocent journalistic purpose of obtaining copies of his speeches. He was, in my view, a cheap demagogue and, in some of his dealings with the US Government, a black-

mailer. The leading figures in the Un-American Activities Committee were also demagogues, though less formidable. Richard Nixon, who focused on the Hiss case, was a more serious figure. Every liberal in the United States maintained that Alger Hiss was innocent. We now know beyond doubt what the evidence showed then, that Hiss was a Soviet agent from the 1930s, comparable to Kim Philby.

In the early 1950s the Cold War had reached an early but critical stage, the communists had taken over China, Berlin had been blockaded, the atom spies had been arrested, the Korean War was being fought. The Cold War seemed quite likely to lead to a Third World War, in which nuclear weapons would be used. No one in 1950 could be sure that the Soviet Union would be contained, that communism would not gradually erode the free world.

Not surprisingly, American opinion was extremely anxious. One of the achievements of the Eisenhower presidency was that the line against Soviet expansion was held, and American opinion was stabilised. The situation in 1961, when Eisenhower left office, was in every way better than in 1952, when he was elected.

The Kazan dilemma was complicated by this contrast between the reality of the Soviet threat and the hysteria it had produced. If Kazan is to be criticised, it is not for rejecting communism, nor even for fighting communism by naming its supporters, but for naming them to a headline-seeking committee. Did not his evidence add to the hysteria?

I think that argument against Kazan is too delicate. It supposes that the battle for minds was one between gentle-minded left-wing scriptwriters and sinister demagogues who were misleading the

American people. That was not the case. A few of the Hollywood victims of McCarthyism may have been wholly innocent; more were recklessly glib; at least a few were fully aware of their Soviet commitment and its implications. The real battle of the 1950s was between American democracy and Soviet communism. The American Communist Party was on the Soviet side.

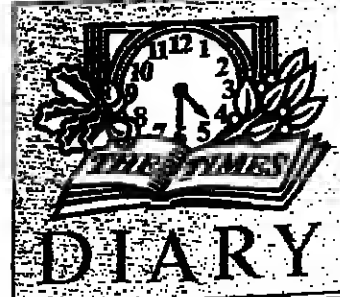
Infantile leftism is the best excuse one can make for American communists of the 1930s and 1940s and their contemporary and later sympathisers. One should not suppose that these fellow-travelling Hollywood scriptwriters knowingly sympathised with the KGB, Beria, the starvation of the Ukraine, the purges, the Nazi-Soviet pact, the Katyn massacre, the gulags, the anti-Semitism, the cult of personality, the corruption of culture and art, or the other horrors

and crimes of Stalin's genocidal regime. Yet they were objectively furthering all these causes. Perhaps they did so with their eyes shut, though I can remember Oxford leftist at that time who would glibly talk of the need to break eggs if one was to make omelettes. By breaking eggs, they meant killing people, or putting them in camps.

The German sociologist Max Weber in *The Sociology of Religion* offers an explanation of this betrayal of human values by relatively large numbers of people in the intellectual professions: it occurred both in America and in Europe. "The intellectual seeks in various ways... to endow his life with a pervasive meaning, and thus to find unity with himself, with his fellow men, and with the cosmos... as a consequence, there is a growing demand that the world and the total pattern of life be subject to an order that is significant and meaningful." Whatever else may be said against Stalin, no one could deny that he



William Rees-Mogg



## What a cop-out

UNDERCOVER police officers have been running up large bills at Mirabelle to catch Maroo Pierre White serving after-hours drinks at his Mayfair restaurant. But the clandestine operation has so far proved an abject failure: sitting among the establishment's regulars, such as Mick Jagger, the Duke of Marlborough and Liam Gallagher, the representatives from the local constabulary are spotted faster than it takes to seal tuna.

Pierre White's restaurant first came to the attention of the authorities in a newspaper review towards the end of last year after Lord Lloyd-Webber mentioned that the place was "buzzing at 1am". Sadly, the composer had not known that the joint is supposed to call last orders at midnight and ensure that diners have finished their drinks at 12.30am.

In the latest "test purchase", two bobbies dropped round last Thursday, and a couple of hours later had little change left over from the £300 allocated from petty cash. Pierre White's garçons slavishly indulged the pair's palates until the dot of midnight when they made a grandiose point of calling time and began ushering the officers to the door.

SUCCESS in the movies has demanded that Rachel Weiss, pictured, acts as if she is in a Japanese game show. Recalling *The Mummy*, her latest flick, she says: "I was handcuffed to an altar in a rodent-infested



cemetery, with live rats clambering all over my body for a whole week. Another time, I had live locusts poured over my head and entangled in my hair."

WHEN some of Labour's more chippy backbenchers saw an unattended Jag breaking parking rules within Westminster's precincts, they looked forward to indulging in a spot of class warfare. Assuming that such imperious behaviour could be displayed only by an old Tory stalwart, they gleefully shopped the owner to the police.

Their catch turned out to be far greater a prize than they had ever imagined, however. As the motor was about to be towed away, the MPs were delighted to see Barbara Follett, a colleague and wife of the millionaire novelist, jump into the driver's seat and speed away.

ANTONIO BANDERAS is to face the wrath of Michael Crawford fans. The *Michael Crawford Phantom* Movie Campaign has taken out a full-page ad in today's *Daily Variety* to complain that the matinee idol rather than the original star will be the lead in the film of Lord Lloyd-Webber's singalong. Behind the mask, can one tell the difference?

IF WE'RE SO CLEVER HOW COME WE'RE STUCK IN HERE?



A Liberal Democrat MP is challenging Sir Winston Churchill's legacy. Norman Baker, whose only claim to fame is as Parliament's most prolific question-seeker, wants the lifts at Westminster to go faster. Baker says: "Unless you are one-legged, it is quicker to walk. Churchill had the lifts slowed down because they made him feel sick."

MICHAEL HARDERN, the eccentric freelance butler caught rifling through the Prince of Wales's private letters at Highgrove, is promising to disclose all at a press conference today. After Morton and Hewitt, there surely cannot be too many royal secrets left.

LORD HEMPHILL has made a strong case for reform of the Upper House without opening his mouth. Since inheriting his title in 1957, he has not uttered a single word in the chamber. Hemphill, however, attended 101 days in the last session, allowing him to claim up to £14,140.

JASPER GERARD

## "The idea that the Russians are more sexually easygoing than we are is misleading — they may be, but they pretend not to be"

It seems unfair on the unsuspecting Russian television viewer that he should be subjected to video footage such as that aired last week of the repulsively unattractive Prosecutor-General cavorting in his underpants with two prostitutes. It feels like only yesterday that we were forced to look at page after page of full-colour photographs of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, everybody's favourite ultra-nationalist, in his.

The day after the not-so-surprising revelations about the Prosecutor, the Russian newspapers went out of their way to back the portly Yuri Skuratov, even taking it upon themselves to suggest that he should run for President.

Now that he had proved himself to be a real all-drinking all-formicating married man of the type Russia so obviously needs, he might as well pitch in

with the best of them, was the line they took.

There was a kind of "good on yer" attitude abounding in the press. The country's fat old men (and there are plenty of them) were assumed to be looking on enviously and wishing they had the power and the money to do the same, and Russia's women apparently smiled on indulgently as if to say "boys will be boys". It seemed that anyone who admitted to being shocked that the man in charge of law and order in Russia would behave in such an unseemly fashion was a prude and a bigot.

English press reports set out to assure readers that Russians are not as censorious as the inhabitants of the foggy Albion and that any sex scandal here can only enhance a politician's reputation. Russians, it was suggested, approve of sex more than we do. Certainly most foreigners visit-

ing Russia leave with an impression of sexual licentiousness, and wonder at the level of personal freedom in a country so long considered by the West to be officially averse to pleasure of all kinds. As a Russian friend once told me: "That was all we ever did under communism. It was legal and free."

There was no contraception to speak of and Russian women subjected themselves to a ghastly average of three abortions each in a lifetime. But that is not to say that attitudes really were more liberal. Part of the reason that contraception was so scarce is that a pretence was always maintained that free sex was not going on. In Russia a certain degree of sexual liberalism goes hand in hand with

Anna Blundy



tight-lipped prudery, and, contrary to Western belief, only the latter is usually allowed out in the open.

This faintly hypocritical morality is a relic of the Soviet days, when the lie that everything was for the best in the best of all possible worlds was maintained on many levels. Under communism, teenage

couples kept quiet about their sex lives and married early, often as a result of an unexpected pregnancy. Fidelity was (and is) considered a bizarre Western notion, like totalitarianism or pacifism. But these couples retained their moral purity in society's eyes by getting married, and only then did they go on to have illicit affairs. The idea that Russians are more sexually easy-

going than we are is misleading — they may be, but they pretend not to be. While Russian voters do seem to appreciate manliness that borders on machismo in a leader, and while they are always glad to know that the boss is, or was, a bit of a ladies' man, they do not want to be told how to live their lives by someone like the Prosecutor-General, who openly humiliates his wife and who uses the services of prostitutes.

Russians may despise Americans for their perceived prudery (there are hundreds of unprintable Russian jokes involving chilly American women and passionate Russian men to attest to this), but their most popular politicians are, as in America, happily married with children.

Boris Yeltsin himself was involved in a bizarre scandal in the

late 1990s in which he is said to have fallen into the Moscow River. But it was the suggestion, and only the suggestion, that a jealous husband might have been involved that the Russian public appreciated. Had a jealous husband actually emerged, it is likely that Mr Yeltsin's reputation would indeed have been damaged. (Valentin Kovalyov, the former Justice Minister, was sent packing in a sex scandal very similar to last week's sordid offering.)

While Russians may have a reputation for a greater acceptance of sexual misdemeanours, they prefer, like the rest of us, that such indiscretions remain private. We can nod and wink about them, but to flaunt them is no more acceptable here than it is at home.

comment@the-times.co.uk





## THE THIRD TEST

The euro must be a durable success that has popular support

Politicians are skilled at painting silver linings round the blackest of clouds. Their instinctive reaction to the most violent storm is to declare, waving even as they drown, that it has "cleared the air". Voters, who understand this game perfectly, have put their own gloss on the claims in European Union capitals that the shipwreck of the European Commission was a European "success", a date with destiny triumphantly met by the European Parliament and, in Tony Blair's words, an "opportunity to be seized". Dry-eyed, they ask why, when their governments knew that these stables were waist-deep in muck, they — and Strasbourg's coddled MEPs — had not picked up their shovels long ago.

The truest note struck last week was the evident public satisfaction at this humbling of the over-nightly. It reveals the deep unpopularity of "Brussels", as a force that affects people's lives without them being able to do anything about it. Political elites should listen hard; for popular revolt could also be the fate of the euro, if the jobs, growth and all the other good things promised in its name do not materialise.

That brings us to the third test that must be met before calling a British referendum on EMU. The first two dealt with the high tax, high cost "European social model" and the risks to Britain of entering a eurozone burdened with unsustainable pensions and welfare costs, over-regulated labour markets, excessive state intervention and public spending — and armies of unemployed. Our third test has a political dimension; the euro must work smoothly to the benefit of all and have clear public support. When elites talk about a "successful" euro, they mean that it will be stable, relatively strong, and a catalyst for political union. They take the popularity or monetary union for granted.

They should not. It is a curious feature of the euro notes to be introduced in 2002 that the buildings they depict do not exist. To avoid national associations, a sort of architectural Year Zero blanks out Europe's varied cultural inheritance, the streets people walk, the cathedrals of their faith. This disconnection from the world people actually live in works both ways. Eurostat opinion polls show that of those who welcome the euro, only a quarter claim to know how EMU will work. Instead of uniting Europeans, there is thus a risk that a single currency could divide them. How many voters yet realise that it has irreversibly changed the way they are

governed? Will they like it when they do? Provided EMU gives a powerful boost to eurozone growth and jobs, people may conclude that the gains outweigh the loss of national control. But as our earlier tests show, that will require radical welfare and labour reforms that will be painful, unpopular — and blamed on the euro.

Above all, a single interest rate will work well for all only if each country's business cycles, and economic profiles are convergent — something Germany has failed to achieve within its own borders in the decade since unification. Success would bring its own problems, exaggerating both booms and busts; but the eurozone is miles from converging now. The last thing booming Ireland and Spain need is lower interest rates, while the Germans are gasping for them. Ironing out asymmetric shocks will be much harder in the eurozone than it is in the US, where federal tax revenues account for 20 per cent of GDP. Only 1.26 per cent of GDP flows to Brussels; and the common agricultural policy devours half the EU budget.

Under EMU, a government can no longer set its interest rates or exchange rate targets. That leaves only taxes and public spending. But France and Germany are waging war on fiscal flexibility; and the stability pact is designed to stop countries spending their way out of trouble.

By 2001 or 2002, when Mr Blair hopes to call a referendum on EMU, it should be clearer whether the euro has stimulated, or stymied, structural reforms. But it will be impossible to know whether the euro is proof against economic shocks. Any objective test would have to cover a full economic cycle. And it must be met not just in the view of economists, but of the public.

A single currency without a single government is *terra incognita*. If it is felt to impose more pain than gain, eurozone voters can no longer change policies by electing a new government. The consequences could be explosive. EMU could generate social unrest, national tensions and a backlash against the EU itself. The economic risks of EMU have been the more fully rehearsed; but the political ones could prove the more deadly. As Mr Blair told the Commons last month, EMU "is an intensely political act". But that is why he was so wrong to say, in the same breath, that his Government had "resolved the political issues", in favour of joining, "should the economic tests be met". The political issues are anything but resolved.



## CREDIBILITY CONTEST

A difficult by-election beckons for Blair and Hague

In ordinary circumstances a mid-term by-election for a Parliament in which one party enjoys a 179-strong majority would not be especially consequential. The manner in which Fiona Jones lost her seat in the House of Commons and the margin of her victory two years ago means, however, that the electors of Newark are destined for considerable analysis. In very different ways this contest represents a test of credibility for both the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

When Ms Jones was convicted on Friday, the first reaction of many at Westminster was a certain sympathy. Although she has become the first MP disqualified for fraud in 75 years, few doubt that Britain's extraordinarily restrictive constituency spending limits were breached by scores of candidates in marginal seats at the last election.

Subsequent developments suggest, however, that this affair was not an isolated incident but part of a wider picture of alleged impropriety and apparent fratrie within the East Midlands Labour Party. Numerous complaints were made to the Labour Party's National Executive Committee but it refused to take action. The NEC may now suspend the whole Newark Labour Party, impose its own by-election candidate and hold an inquiry. But this will not mitigate its failure to act sooner. This is the sort of murky factionalism that Tony Blair has attempted to

persuade the public that he had eliminated, or at least confined to a few urban enclaves. As he is aware, much of his own party remains his most pressing electoral liability. This by-election will inevitably put Labour sleaze in the spotlight.

William Hague, on the other hand, needs to show that he is not a liability to his party. With the exception of the Uxbridge poll, held only one month after he had replaced John Major, the Conservative performance in the few by-elections of this Parliament has been unimpressive. Mr Hague's associates are already attempting to play down expectations: This is a doomed exercise. If the Tories cannot capture a seat that requires a mere 3 per cent swing in a scandal-stained situation, their chances at the next general election will be even poorer than they currently appear.

There is little point in the Tories trying to persuade anyone that for them the Newark contest is unimportant. A Labour victory would set into sharp context the several hundred gains that the Conservatives should make, at a minimum, in local government elections this May. Those seats were last fought in 1995, the low point of Tory fortunes this century. Mr Hague does not want the European elections in June to become some sort of referendum on his leadership. A clean win in Newark would avoid that. Mr Blair, by contrast, needs to prove that the Jones saga does not show another unseen side of New Labour.

## LORDS OF THE AIR

The triumphant balloonists point the way to new challenges

More than two hundred years since Joseph and Etienne Montgolfier sent a sheep, duck and a rooster aloft in a balloon over Versailles, the nine-tonne *Breitling Orbiter 3* yesterday touched down gently in the Great Sand Sea, a desolate expanse where few men have trod since a sandstorm swallowed up the army of Cambyses some 2,500 years ago. The Montgolfier flight began man's quest to the farthest reaches of the heavens, culminating in the landing on the Moon. Yet balloon flight itself remained tantalisingly circumscribed. Explorers went ever higher and further in their precarious gondolas; but they never managed to travel beyond the oceans that divide the world. Circumnavigation of the globe remained the ultimate challenge, and one that, until yesterday, had eluded more than half a dozen enormously expensive attempts.

Jaded, perhaps, by highly publicised expeditions that ended in watery failure, the world paid little attention to Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones when they lifted

off from the Alps 21 days ago. But their nerve, their skill and their good humour have won them the admiration and praise of enthusiasts and rivals alike, as well as a place in the records of human daring. For Mr Piccard, there is an added sweetness to his achievement: his grandfather Auguste was the first man to reach the stratosphere in a balloon in 1931 and his father set a record in 1960 for the deepest ocean dive.

The race to circle the world is won; and Britain can take pride in a ballooning instructor whose quiet grit has beaten the better known attempts of Richard Branson to win the \$1 million trophy. But Mr Branson, generous in his congratulation, insists that the game is not over: he will now sponsor a round-the-world race.

There are still new frontiers to cross: no one has yet touched the floor of the deepest oceans, sledged across the Bering Strait or swum the Atlantic. Mankind will seek new feats of daring and endurance; for now it can rejoice in the triumph that began in Paris all those years ago.

## Ambiguity in GE food assurances

From the Executive Director of Greenpeace UK

Sir, Neither better labelling (leading article, March 19) nor some deal to halt commercial planting of genetically engineered (GE) crops in the UK for a few years will give people the real choice of not eating GE food. Only a permanent ban will do that.

Labelling will not remove the 80 per cent of processed food from the big food manufacturers on UK supermarket shelves that contains GE ingredients. These ingredients still pour in unchecked week after week through UK ports. Even with a moratorium, we risk irreversible and uncontrollable contamination of the environment from field trials in the UK and commercial planting elsewhere.

We are faced with one of the most important and urgent choices of our time: whether we want increasingly industrialised and engineered food or more natural and more organic food. British people have already made their choice clear.

If British people are to retain their right to choose, the Government must at least match the current rate of growth for organic agriculture in the UK with the rest of Europe. If current rates continue, 30 per cent of agricultural land in Europe will be farmed organically by 2010. The UK, with less than 1 per cent of land currently farmed organically, lags behind.

Yours sincerely,  
PETER MELCHETT,  
Executive Director,  
Greenpeace UK,  
Canbury Villas, NI 2PN,  
March 19.

From Dr Mark Avery

Sir, Ministers have repeatedly assured the public that they will not permit widespread commercial releases of genetically modified crops unless field trials show that these crops are environmentally safe. The Government's research will not be complete before December 2002, yet ministers steadily maintain that commercial release is possible as early as next spring. This policy confounds good science and common sense: the research must come first and should inform subsequent government actions.

Perhaps something more subtle is going on. The Government might allow the sale of the products from the field trials themselves — effectively a limited commercial release. This would explain the apparent contradiction at the heart of current policy and would justify ministerial denials that this week's leaked Cabinet Office memo refers to an extended voluntary ban on commercial releases (report, March 16). If this explanation is correct, it raises the questions of how extensive the trials will become and where the boundary between "limited" and "full" commercialisation lies.

The public should not have to speculate on such important issues. The Government should state its intentions clearly.

Yours faithfully,  
MARK AVERY,  
(Director, Conservation),  
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds,  
The Lodge, Sandy,  
Bedfordshire SG19 2DL,  
March 16.

## Shopkeeper's dilemma

From Dr Kenneth Mole

Sir, Once again the Government has rushed thoughtlessly to grab popularity.

It is only from the media that our village shopkeeper (his viability, unlike that of supermarkets, already weakened by a forced £90 contribution to food-safety administration) has learnt of a possible fine of £5,000 for non-disclosure, as from today, of the presence of more than 1 per cent of GM ingredient in the food he sells. How is he supposed to know what science cannot sensibly measure?

I hope he will survive by putting in his window, today, a postcard: As far as I am aware, everything I sell here, from toothpaste to deep-frozen curry, contains at least 1 per cent of GM material.

Yours sadly,  
KENNETH MOLE,  
The School, Buckhorn Weston,  
Gillingham, Dorset SP6 5HS,  
March 19.

## Cash in hand

From Mr Keith Chambers

Sir, Although one cannot avoid having sympathy for the employment situation at Longbridge (report, March 19), it is not hard to grasp the irony of British taxpayers being asked by BMW/Rover to put money into the firm so that it, in return, can charge them some 50 per cent more for some of its products (report, March 18) than people in other countries.

Yours faithfully,  
KEITH CHAMBERS,  
19 Hill Road, Oakley,  
Basingstoke, Hampshire RG23 7HS,  
March 19.

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Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## 'Superior alternative' to A levels

From Professor Sir Hermann Bondi, FRS

Sir, I am delighted that you gave pride of place (report and leading article, March 18) to Sevenoaks School's switch from A levels to the International Baccalaureate (IB). This excellent and demanding examination is much superior in coherence, depth and breadth to A levels.

Atlantic College, that superb international school in South Wales, pioneered the use of the IB in this country. Some other schools also use it with success. Many universities are by now well used to it.

May the IB go from strength to strength!

Yours faithfully,  
HERMANN BONDI,  
Churchill College,  
Cambridge CB3 0DS,  
March 18.

From the Principal of United World College of the Atlantic

Sir, It is clear that the Government's new policies for post-16 education are a significant change to the principles of the narrow A-level programme.

Its practical proposals, however, may just not quite achieve its aims. The IB is a tried and tested system which has the very things the Government is seeking. Sevenoaks and perhaps Winchester have spotted this, as have many other schools and colleges in the UK, not all of them, by any means, in the selective, public school arena.

Atlantic College saw the light in 1971 and has 5,000 IB "graduates". IB is elegant, it works, and its students are prepared for testing university programmes in the UK and beyond.

In Wales there has been much interest in a Welsh baccalaureate pro-

posal which builds on the IB to include vocational aims as well — the much searched-for overarching qualification.

The Government is to be praised for its first tentative steps and perhaps soon it will have the courage to go that little bit further.

Yours sincerely,  
COLIN JENKINS,  
Principal, United World College of the Atlantic,  
St Donat's Castle, Llantwit Major,  
Vale of Glamorgan CF61 1WE,  
March 18.

From Mr Michael Tiley

Sir, The majority of sixth-form pupils at Malvern College, as well as at Sevenoaks School, take the IB and may well be joined by those at Winchester and other independent and state schools. Those schools will be at an unfair disadvantage if your annual published league tables of school exam results do not include the IB as well as the A-level results.

At LSE we include our A-level and IB entrance requirements for undergraduate courses in our prospectus. Surely the time has come for an authoritative body, such as the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service or the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, to produce a reliable table indicating the equivalence of GCE A levels, Scottish Highers and the IB for the guidance of schools, universities and employers.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL TILEY,  
(Head of College Careers Service),  
London School of Economics,  
Room E388,  
Houghton Street, WC2A 2AE,  
m.tiley@lse.ac.uk,  
March 18.

## Access to legal aid

From the Minister of State in the Lord Chancellor's Department

Sir, It is simply not true, as Benedict Birmingham states (letter, March 10), that the Government is withdrawing legal aid from most money claims, or that as a quid pro quo for the withdrawal of legal aid we are allowing lawyers to use conditional fees. We believe that as conditional fees have been available since July 1995 for personal injury cases they now provide a suitable alternative to public funding for most of these cases. We intend to use the scarce taxpayers' money to target areas of greatest need: people will still be able to get help, including bringing money claims, in the areas of social welfare, housing and enforcement of rights.

It is inaccurate also to suggest that large cases, such as that recently brought against the tobacco companies, will not be able to be brought in future because lawyers will not be willing to bear the risks of litigation. One of the reforms we are making in the Access to Justice Bill is to allow

funding to be given to cases which might not otherwise merit support if they raise a wider significant public interest.

We have also recognised that in some cases it may not be possible for the lawyer or the client to bear the risks of using conditional fees. Initially at least, where there are high investigative or overall costs. We intend to make public funds available in meritorious cases.

We are determined to make the establishment of the Community Legal Service a reality in order to give people a new way of getting legal help. That will require lawyers to change the way they do business and undertake work that is publicly funded. We simply have to reform legal aid and the way legal services are provided if we are to make access to justice not simply a slogan but a reality.

Sincerely,  
GEOFF HOON,  
Lord Chancellor's Department,  
Selborne House,  
54-60 Victoria Street, SW1E 6QW,  
March 15.

## Banana dispute

From Mr Brian Griffin

Sir, The banana war highlights the failings of both the UK and EU authorities (letters, March 5, 8, 10, 12). That the EU and the US should have failed to resolve a disagreement in over six years is astonishing, even by the EU's standards of inactivity.

The imposing of sanctions by the US (tariffs by any other name) which disproportionately affect the UK, its oldest and most trusted European ally, must rank as one of the gravest political errors of the Clinton Administration. The tariffs show no logical commercial or economic sense.

Tony Blair's contribution has been to guarantee the bonds payable by the cashmere industry, whilst virtually ignoring the needs of the rest of the UK's exporters. The timing of the guarantee, made whilst he was on a trip to Scotland where he is in political trouble, suggests it was not quite the genuine gesture it seemed.

To a small company, encouraged by successive governments to expand and export, the current situation only proves that while under old Labour it was "export or die", under new Labour it is "export and die".

Yours faithfully,  
B. GRIFFIN,  
(Director), Beanglow Ltd,  
Somersham Road, St Ives,  
Huntingdon PE17 4LP,  
March 18.

From Mr Peter Ryan

Sir, The banana crisis in the Caribbean is the second major farming

problem for the Caribbean islands. For two decades they searched for alternative crops to cane sugar, with little success.

I spent 1983-89 in the Caribbean partly in helping the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation to find saleable crops. The domestic market is mainly hotels, empty May to November. Exports of exotic fruits must travel by air. The US prevents exports of citrus. Mango exports are impractical because of complex non-tariff barriers. The climate is unreliable and too hot for many crops. Plant diseases are rife. Insects, slugs, monkeys and drought destroy many crops.

Bananas grow on poor, steep land, unlike in Central America and Ecuador, which is why costs are high. Shipping to Europe involves a complex, tightly scheduled system collecting from Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia, and St Vincent. This will now collapse. Unemployment on these islands is already over 30 per cent; outside the tourist season more than 50 per cent.

"Dollar bananas" will kill this trade, and one replacement crop will inevitably be cannabis, already grown on some islands. The State Department must be aware that a sharp increase in drug smuggling will result from backing the Chiquitas, Dole and other US firms who already have most of the banana market. The EU cannot replace the banana trade any more than it could replace the loss of sugar exports.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER RYAN,  
44a Fellows Road, NW3 3LH,  
March 13.

## Women priests

From the Reverend Jean Mayland

Sir, No one wants to drive George Austin, Edwin Barnes or John Sheard out of the Church of England (letters, March 9; see also letters, March 4, 12, 13). According to the conscience clauses of the measure which made provision for the ordination of women to the priesthood, parishes do not have to receive women priests and male priests do not have to work with them. There is plenty of time for consensus to be reached. We women priests have lots to do in the meantime.

What we cannot accept is the right of parishes to refuse to receive their

own bishop simply because he has ordained women and to demand to have a "lying bishop" instead.

The Act of Synod, which makes provision for these bishops, has not promoted harmony but entrenched division. As it is so divisive, as well as being ecumenically objectionable, untheological and doctrinally debatable, it is high time it was rescinded and flying bishops became ordinary bishops with more conventional ways of working and methods of transport.

Yours faithfully,  
JEAN M. MAYLAND,  
125 Thanet House,  
Thanet Street, WC1H 9QE,  
March 17.

## Pinning down a culture of racism

From Ms Beverley Thompson

Sir, Michael Gove writes in defence of public services, and in particular the police, against the accusation of institutional racism ("Tories have no right to be silent", March 16). He says that the Macpherson report "seeks to damn without securing what any court would require before pronouncing guilt — clear evidence of motivation".

I observed the Stephen Lawrence inquiry and gave evidence on behalf of NACRO on the issue of institutional racism. The fact that "motivation" is absent does not prevent an institution from performing in a way that has racist consequences.

This is not limited to police officers' greater readiness to perceive young black men as suspects rather than victims. The police service, in common with other criminal justice agencies, fails to recruit anywhere near the proportion of racial minorities equivalent to the population at large, especially in London. Officers from racial minorities who are employed have not reached senior ranks in numbers which reflect their presence in the general population.

Five times more black young men are stopped and searched than any other group. But the arrest rates are the same for this group as for any other. The Metropolitan Police's own report on stop and search acknowledges that racial stereotypes play a part in the disproportionate use of these powers.

When the outcome of institutional processes such as these has a racial dimension, and one group is consistently disadvantaged compared with others, that becomes racism of an institutional kind. We urged the inquiry to recommend that checks should be put in place to ensure that equality was achieved both in police employment and in the service that the police deliver to the public.

Michael Gove suggests that the inquiry was successful only in proving incompetence. The question that the inquiry had to address was, why were so many officers so incompetent? If the same question is ever raised again the police service must be able to show that the reason is not indifference to the needs, hopes, fears and concerns of racial minority groups.

To its credit, the police service seems to be recognising this. The standard which must now be achieved applies to every single agency.

Yours faithfully,  
BEVERLEY THOMPSON  
(Director of Strategy),  
National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders,  
169 Clapham Road, SW9 0PU,  
March 17.

From Mr Ralph Blumenau

Sir, Since the Macpherson report's inappropriate ascription of "institutional racism" to the police, we have had it ascribed, equally sweepingly, to schools; and today (article, Law) Maria Fernandes and Anuja Dhir apply it to the legal profession.

Lawyers of all people should use words more carefully, and should be able to distinguish between "institutional racism" and a "racist culture within an institution". The former is properly used where institutions have racist rules — as in Nazi Germany, in apartheid South Africa, or in clubs which used to have formal rules excluding groups from membership on racist grounds.

A "racist culture" does pervade parts of many institutions which are formally committed to racial equality. That is utterly deplorable and needs to be eliminated; but at least the term does not taint entire institutions, many of whose members actively implement and promote a non-racist culture.

Yours faithfully,  
RALPH BLUMENAU,  
111 Princes House,  
30 Kensington Park Road, W11 3BW,  
March 16.

From Professor Kenneth Minogue

Sir, "Half the trouble in Brussels, as at the UN, is the practice of allocating jobs and contracts by national quotas, not merit," writes Simon Jenkins ("Derrall the gravy train", March 17). No doubt. And is not this the same policy which is being urged upon the police, the theatre, the legal profession and many other areas of life — in the name of combating "institutional racism"?

Yours faithfully,  
KENNETH MINOGUE,  
Centre for Policy Studies,  
57 Tufton Street, SW1P 3QL,  
March 17.

## Thought for the day

From Mrs Heather Berger

Sir, Mr David Cowan (letter, March 18) congratulates you on your choice of 1 Timothy vi, 7 as a suitable text around the time of the Budget.

Perhaps those same words — "and we won't take anything with us when we leave" — could find a place in the service contracts of the next European commissioners.

Yours sincerely,  
HEATHER BERGER,  
Kirkton Craig, Abernethy,  
Perthshire, PH14 9ST,  
bergerh@cwcom.net,  
March 18.







OBITUARIES

ERNIE WISE

Ernie Wise, OBE, comedian, died yesterday aged 73. He was born on November 27, 1925.

At their peak, Ernie Morecambe and Ernie Wise were probably Britain's best-loved entertainers. Their inimitable comic double act was forged in the variety halls and reached its triumphant maturity in the very different and more demanding medium of television. Its success was founded on superb technique: perfect timing, an ability to breathe fresh life into familiar gags and routine, and a talent for blending moments of inspired improvisation with material that was carefully polished and minutely rehearsed. In all they were together for 43 years.

They started as conventional cross-talk comedians in blatant imitation — down to the American accents — of the film comics, Abbott and Costello. But as the act developed, so it became more than an exchange of jokes, and the key to this was that Morecambe and Wise assumed distinct personalities.

It was a happy fusion of contrasting temperaments. Ernie was ebullient, volatile and mocking; Ernie quieter, steadier, trying to stand on his dignity. But Wise was not just the straight man, the butt of insults about his meanness, his short, fat hairy legs and the join in his (imagined) wig, his contribution to the act was both positive and indispensable.

He was born Ernest Wiseman in Ardley, near Leeds, the son of a railway porter, and eldest of five children. His father was a spare-time entertainer in the Yorkshire working-men's clubs, and Ernie, who showed an early aptitude for singing and dancing, joined him on stage from the age of seven in an act called Carson and Kid.

Leaving school at 13, Ernie was put under contract by the impresario Jack Hylton, and first met Eric Bartholomew — later Morecambe — when the two of them appeared in Bryan Michie's show *Youth Takes A Bow*, at the Swansea Empire. Eric's mother took the boys under her wing and the

double act was born on a train journey between Birmingham and Coventry during the Blitz in its early incarnation it involved a clog dancer and a boy with a lollipop. "Wiseman and Bartholomew" was too long to fit on a billboard. They thought of calling themselves Morecambe and Leeds, but decided it sounded too much like a cheap day return.

They were separated by National Service — Ernie serving in the Merchant Navy, Eric as a Bevin boy — but happened to meet in Russell Square in 1946 when both were looking for work. They were soon appearing in Lord George Sanger's Variety Circus, and their act developed from there, serving a tough apprenticeship as comic relief in nude shows, in pantomime and summer seasons and on radio.

By 1952 they were appearing regularly on radio, and two years later were given their own "television" series, *Running Wild*. But they had come on too quickly. *Running Wild* was panned by the critics and was a setback from which they took several years to recover. But time was on their side — they were not yet 30 — and they were able to go back to the variety stage to build up experience. They starred at the Palladium in 1959. Both had married in the early 1950s. Wise after a six-year courtship. Wise's wife, Doreen, often went on tour with the act.

In 1961 they were ready to take another chance with television, and this time they did not fail. Helped by sympathetic scriptwriters in Sid Green and Dick Hills, *The Morecambe and Wise Show* for ATV quickly found a successful format and grew steadily better. The series ran for seven years; the stage work continued, and there were also regular trips to the United States to appear on *The Ed Sullivan Show*.

Many of their catchphrases — "Get out of that" or "What do you think of it so far?" — were dreamt up on the spot as one or other of them struggled to get out of a mess.

During the 1960s they also made three films, *The Intelligence Men*, *That Riviera Touch* and *The Magnificent Two*, though like many comedians

before them Morecambe and Wise found themselves ill-used on the large screen. Then in November 1968 all activities ceased when Morecambe suffered a serious heart attack.

After his recovery, and with Eddie Braben as their new scriptwriter, Morecambe and Wise went on to fresh heights. A highlight of the television year was their Christmas show, in which unlikely guests from Dame Flora Robson to Glenda Jackson and André Previn would happily let their hair down and join the fun. Even the former Prime Minister Harold Wilson appeared in a sketch, and half the population tuned in.

Although their names were forever paired in public, Morecambe and Wise did not spend much time together socially. Wise, unsurprisingly, was the business brain of the partnership, organising deals with agents. He had always dreamt of the Hollywood life over the rainbow, and enjoyed the trappings: the swimming pool, tennis courts, a yellow Rolls-Royce and a motor cruiser moored on the Thames which flowed past the end of his garden. "Oh yes, I like goodies," he once said.

By the early 1970s Morecambe and Wise were at their creative peak, gloriously inventive and drawing huge audiences. But television is a relentless devourer of material, and presents the constant danger of over-exposure. Even Morecambe and Wise were not immune, and from 1974 they decided to ration their appearances.

Less work should have meant more leisure time, but Wise found relaxing difficult, having had a sense of responsibility for earning money since childhood. "My whole life has been Morecambe and Wise," he said. "I have no hobbies."

Their Christmas show of 1976 caused an extraordinary fuss, because of the then unprecedented appearance of a newsreader, Angela Rippon, in the glamorous role of a dancer showing her splendid legs. A BBC journalist lost

his job for leaking a picture of the said legs to the *Daily Mirror*, but the nation was delighted. Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise were both appointed OBE that year.

The following year their Christmas special attracted a record 27.5 million viewers, but in 1978, after a decade with the BBC, the duo moved to ITV, trebling their money. "We get lunch-vouchers here," Eric told the press. And Ernie added that the real reason they had left the BBC was that Des O'Connor had joined. "When he leaves, we will go back."

But Morecambe's health could not be taken for granted. In 1979 he had another heart attack and although open heart surgery proved temporarily successful there was some doubt whether Morecambe and Wise would perform together again. They did eventually resume, but some of the old sparkle was missing. Morecambe was taken ill again in the autumn of 1983 and he died in May 1984 aged 58.

This left Wise with the difficult task of trying to build a solo career, and it had to be seen whether he could successfully strike out on his own after so long in partnership. He quickly undertook a tour of Australia, saying that he needed to prove something.

Proud of what he had achieved, Wise was anxious to be appreciated as a comic in his own right, and disliked the term "straight man". He was, he insisted, "a song and dance man". What he would have loved most of all was a solo success on Broadway, or a romantic hit record. Both eluded him, but he threw himself into pantomimes and commercials, West End roles, sitcom and talk-show appearances, a part in an American TV show. There was plenty of charity work, too, and he even became the gardening correspondent of the *News of the World*. Without Morecambe, however, as deep down he knew, Ernie Wise was only "half a star".

He suffered a stroke in 1993 and retired on his 70th birthday. A series of strokes and heart attacks followed.

Ernie Wise was married in 1953 to Doreen Blyth, a former dancer. She survives him; there were no children.

HANDS OFF LITTLE ERN



Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise: a happy fusion of contrasting temperaments

PATRICK HERON

Patrick Heron, CBE, painter and critic, died on March 20 aged 79. He was born on January 30, 1920.

For a few years in the late 1950s, St Ives was an important centre of international contemporary art. A group of adventurous and experimental artists, including some born locally, were stimulated by its climate and geography as well as by the sympathetic company. Aware of what was going on in Paris and New York, they nevertheless relished the personal support that an artists' colony can provide. In this artistic climate of self-respect and self-confidence, stimulus and freedom, Patrick Heron was a key figure, both as a painter and as a theorist.

In the end St Ives — like Paris — could not compete with the aggressive promotion of postwar American art, and was soon displaced by New York as the centre of contemporary painting (an idea perhaps believed more in Europe than in America itself). But that in no way invalidates the art made in the Cornish harbour town. Whatever the ultimate judgement on Heron's own paintings of vibrant colour, he was undeniably vigorous in maintaining that self-respect and self-confidence in subsequent years, when the St Ives school had disintegrated and the pressure on its students to "paint American" was intense. In doing so, he gave vital moral and artistic support to many British artists setting out on their careers.

Yet there was nothing insular in Heron's outlook, quite the reverse. In a career lasting some sixty years, he never wavered in his belief that colour should be "both the subject and the means, the form and the content, the image and the meaning" of his art. That was not a recipe for easy success in an English art world which had

sometimes behaved — and still behaves — as though serious painting comes only in shades of brown, and where "decorative" is a term of rare abuse. In the best of his own zesty canvases, and in his many eloquent essays on the European and American painters he admired, Heron was a persuasive champion for a warmer, more vital, most un-British kind of art.

Patrick Heron was born in Headingley, Leeds, and educated variously at St Ives, Welwyn Garden City, and St. Georges, Harpenden. His father was a textile manufacturer who in 1923 founded Cresta Silks. Paul Nash, Cedric Morris and other artists designed scarves and fabrics for the firm, as did Patrick from 1934 onwards. Thus strong clear, flat colour, and a decorative sense more French than English, were familiar to him from boyhood; and from the age of five to nine, when the family lived in West Cornwall — Newlyn, Lelant and St Ives — the strong light and clear colours of the region offered a natural reflection of the printed fabrics. The winter of 1927-28 was spent at Eagles Nest, Zennor, where Patrick made his first drawings at the age of seven: the house was subsequently to become his home from 1956.

Heron enrolled at the Slade School of Fine Art as a part-time student from 1937 to 1939 but did not complete the course. During the war, as a conscientious objector, he worked as an agricultural labourer from 1940 to the end of 1943 (when his health deteriorated). But then Bernard Leach, the pottery master, persuaded the authorities to release two ex-art-student conscientious objectors to help him. Heron and Dick Kendall were allocated to him, and Heron worked at the pottery from January 1944 to April 1945. There he met and made friends with artists including Barbara Hepworth and



Patrick Heron with the stained glass window he designed for the Tate Gallery, St Ives, 1996

Ben Nicholson, Naum and Miriam Gabo, Adrian Stokes, John Wells and Sven Berlin.

Marrying in 1945, Heron moved to London and resumed painting. He showed at the Redfern Gallery from 1947 to 1953; it was at this gallery that he had seen Matisse's painting *The Red Studio*, which he said was for him the most influential single painting of his career. His own style, however, was at the time more in the lines of the later work of Georges Braque (whom he visited in 1949): a modified Cubism where many spatial glimpses of various facets of a scene are defined and linked by a flowing framework of continuous lines; though the colour was generally stronger and nearer to that of Matisse. A typical example of this period is *Harbour with Two Figures*: St Ives from July 1950.

At the same time he had begun writing art criticism: from 1943 to 1947 in the *New English Weekly*, and then regularly from 1947 to 1950 in the *New Statesman* and *Nation*. He became an influential voice, much appreciated by artists, who enjoyed the unfamiliar luxury of art criticism by a practising artist. His own painterly inclinations at this time are evident in his choice of subjects for criticism, and in the strength of his intuitive response to their work: he wrote important articles on Picasso, Léger, Matisse, Rouault, Vlaminck, Bonnard, Braque. He was also influential in introducing the St Ives artists to a wider public, with articles on Bernard Leach, Peter Lanyon, Ben Nicholson, Bryan Winder, Roger Hilton and John Wells.

Heron was eventually dismissed as regular critic for using the concept "pictorial space" too often. In 1952, the year Heron had a retrospective exhibition touring the North of England from Wakefield, he began to experiment with more "abstracted" painting. (He differentiated between abstracted — taken from nature — and abstract, which he considered a false term, more correctly rendered as non-representational.) However, it was not until 1955 — when he wrote *The Changing Forms of Art*, curated an exhibition of five figurative and five abstract painters at the Hanover Gallery under the title *Space in Colour*, and became London correspondent for the *New York magazine Arts* (a post he held until 1958) — that he properly took up abstraction, notably in *Autumn Garden* of 1956 inspired by Eagles Nest, and featured by Sir Herbert

Read in his *Critic's Choice* exhibition of that year.

In 1957 he painted the first of his horizontal stripe paintings, which he always regarded as pre-dating those of the Americans such as Kenneth Noland and Morris Louis. These were first shown in an influential exhibition, *Metavision, Tachiste and Abstract Painting in England* at the Redfern Gallery in 1957, the first show to reflect the impact of the American Abstract Expressionists shown at the Tate the year before, when they had stunned many British artists with their scale, their originality, their simplifications and their inventive daring. Heron came to know personally most of the leading American artists, and their leading theorist, Clement Greenberg, though he was to be a far from uncritical admirer of their work.

Heron's stripe paintings were followed by rectangular patterns of verticals and horizontal which he himself called "fractured tartan". Then in 1958 — when he took over Ben Nicholson's large studio at Porthmeor — the rectangles, along with discs of colour, began to float like islands of colour in seas of colour; the colours took on the radiant, saturated intensity of Matisse's collaged cut-paper paintings, but the borders between the colour areas were less defined, and sometimes jagged with hints of Cornish landscape about them; Heron called them "wobbly hard-edge".

As the years went by and new art movements sprang up, Heron's contribution to artistic debate, once he had given up regular criticism, was of necessity through his own paintings: though he reverted to print from time to time to take vigorous issue in letters and articles on vital matters such as art education, or threats to his beloved Cornish coastline.

"It is obvious," he wrote in the 1960s, "that colour is now the only

direction in which paintings can travel." He found the format of floated colour which he had evolved a sufficient vehicle for the continuing investigation of colour sensations, only moderating this in the 1980s when he took up the subject of gardens again, employing first a more detailed, meticulous style, and later a much freer — and more appealing — gestural and calligraphic approach.

If Heron's work was often undervalued or overlooked by those who subscribed to the latest artistic fashion, his self-confidence was unaffected. There were undoubtedly years when he wrote much more about other people's painting than anyone wrote about his own. This was not an indication of decreasing effectiveness, however; the paintings he made around 1972, for instance, though out of step with much of the art of the time, are among the best of all his work; and the exuberant canvases he produced in his very last years could stand comparison with anything he had done.

In the ideal museum of 20th-century art, his best colour paintings will be on the wall between those of Matisse and those of the Americans Mark Rothko, Ellsworth Kelly, Kenneth Noland and Barnett Newman — with the German Expressionist Emil Nolde not too far away. And there they will continue to sing.

Patrick Heron had retrospective exhibitions at the Whitechapel Gallery in 1972 and at the Barbican in 1985. Another, his highest, was held at the Tate Gallery last year, and a volume of his selected writings on art was published to accompany the exhibition. He was appointed CBE in 1977, and served as a trustee of the Tate Gallery from 1980 to 1987.

Patrick Heron married in 1945 Delia Reiss; she died in 1979. There are two daughters of the marriage.

LORD GILLMORE OF THAMESFIELD

Lord Gillmore of Thamesfield, GCMG, Permanent Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Head of the Diplomatic Service, 1991-94, died of cancer on March 20 aged 64. He was born on August 16, 1934.

David Gillmore had an unusual diplomatic career. It was, for one thing, strangely truncated: he first joined the Diplomatic Service at the age of 36, more than ten years later than his peers, and left it promptly on his 60th birthday. On his way to the permanent secretaryship he held none of the service's most glittering ambassadorships, making his name instead mainly in London, in the arcane world of defence and security policy. And he became Permanent Secretary only when the Prime Minister of the day, Margaret Thatcher, overruled the nomination of another and Gillmore was brought in instead. All these apparent disadvantages were triumphantly overcome.

David Howe Gillmore was the son of an Air Force officer. He was educated at Treni College and at King's College, Cambridge. When he came down he went to work in

turn for Reuters, for a French corporation in Paris, and for four years as a teacher in London. Along the way he took time out to publish a novel, *A Way from Exile*. It was 1970 before he joined the Diplomatic Service.

He had a lot of ground to make up. Contemporaries had been learning the ways of diplomacy and of the most idiosyncratic of the great departments of state since their early twenties. Gillmore brought to the task a knowledge of the wider world, perfect French, a capacity for sustained hard work and a markedly straightforward and genial personality. After two years in the Foreign Office he was posted to Moscow and from there, after three years, to Vienna. He went there on promotion to the rank of counsellor at the age of 41, much the same age at which he might have attained it had he joined the service in his early twenties.

He went to join the British delegation to the Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction negotiations to reach agreement on lower levels of armed force deployments in Europe by both sides in the Cold War. It was a complex, frustrating and apparently interminable business of trying to weigh tanks

against artillery, strike helicopters against anti-tank guns and new technology against waves of Warsaw Pact infantry. It demanded endless patience, as much with allies as opponents, a grasp of theory and technicality alike, and a sharp eye for chicanery. It was in Vienna that Gillmore first became involved in the defence and security policy issues in which he made his reputation and with which he was engaged for most of his career.

In 1979, at the age of 45, Gillmore was moved back to London to head the Defence Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. After three years in the job he was promoted Assistant Under-Secretary of State responsible for the same range of subjects: the minutiae of defence policy, security policy and defence. All of them are diabolically complex subjects, blending abstract intellectual theory with life and death practicalities. They demanded of Gillmore intellectual commitment, determination and sustained hard work. They made calls also on his ample supply of human qualities, cementing relations with officials and officers in the Ministry of Defence. In Nato and, very particularly, in Washington.

These were difficult years for the



Western alliance. It faced aggressive communist opponents committed to what history has since shown to have been their last fling. At the time the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the continuing build-up of conventional Warsaw Pact forces in Europe and the forward deployment of Soviet intermediate-range nuclear forces represented a real threat to Western security. It aroused in Ronald Reagan's United States an equally belligerent reaction. But Western European governments faced articulate peace movements and great popular fear of war; they held back from warm

endorsement of Washington's responses to the Soviet threat. Not for the first time, British policy played a key role in holding the Alliance together. Gillmore had a central part in devising it and selling it in Nato.

In 1983 Gillmore was moved to Kuala Lumpur, to become High Commissioner to Malaysia. It was a less demanding job than those he had held and was to hold in London, but he took it on at a difficult time. The years of easy British-Malaysian relations were over. A sense of insecurity on the one hand and abrasive self-confidence on the other blended strangely in Malaysian policy. Many Malaysians, and particularly their Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir Mohamad, were growing increasingly resentful of the former colonial power. In the commercial field Malaysia committed itself to what seemed a gratuitously offensive policy of "buy British last". Mutual resentments could have spiralled out of control. Gillmore played a large part in ensuring that they did not, and when he left Kuala Lumpur in 1986 the worst of the episode was over.

Gillmore came back to London as a Deputy Under-Secretary, one of the small college of cardinals

which, under ministers and the Permanent Under-Secretary, oversees the work of the whole office and keeps global policy cohesive and proportionate. Once again he brought calm judgment, affability and 16-hour days to the task. It was before long an open secret that his next and last job was to be Ambassador to the United Nations, and he used his time in London to round out his knowledge of the world and of the people at the top who made it tick.

But Margaret Thatcher took a hand. She blocked the diplomats' preferred candidate for the post of Permanent Under-Secretary and a high-level reshuffle became necessary. His human and intellectual qualities made Gillmore the obvious candidate for the job and, after brief sabbaticals at Harvard and in Paris, he moved into it in the summer of 1991.

The three years in which Gillmore was Permanent Under-Secretary and Head of the Diplomatic Service were troubled ones for British diplomacy. To general surprise John Major won the 1992 election. His majority was small and his party divided and ill-disciplined. Among the many things that troubled it was uncertainty about Britain's place in the world

and in particular its position in the European Union. Foreign policy became increasingly dictated by domestic political considerations.

Throughout his tenure Gillmore served a very capable Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, but one who was suspected in his own party of being too close to foreigners and the diplomatic world in which he had started his career. The Permanent Under-Secretary's role is uneasy at the best of times. Caught between diplomacy and unusually fractious politics, Gillmore played it with calm aplomb in particularly difficult circumstances.

Satisfaction with his performance was marked by his ennoblement on his retirement. (He had been knighted in 1990 and promoted GCMG in 1994.) He was an active member of the House of Lords and involved himself in business, with directorships in banking, insurance and industry. But for all his business and success, he and his family continued to live modestly in a small house in southwest London.

He is survived by his wife Lucile (the daughter of a French diplomat family and, like her husband, a practitioner of 16-hour days), and by their two sons.



## NEWS

## Passports for pets by 2001

■ Britain's 100-year-old quarantine rules — the toughest in the world — are to be scrapped within two years for animals imported from "rabies-free" countries.

Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, is ready to announce the country's move to a system of "passports for pets", identifying animals by microchip and vaccine record. It could be piloted at some British ports before the end of the year. **Page 1**

## Milosevic offered one last warning

■ With Serb forces pounding rebel positions in Kosovo, and Nato jets on just a few hours' alert, the American special envoy Richard Holbrooke will deliver a final warning to President Milosevic to halt his aggression or face a bombing onslaught. Mr Milosevic has agreed to the meeting which is due to take place this evening in Belgrade. **Pages 1, 12**

## Language push

Ministers are planning a classroom revolution to overcome Britons' notorious reluctance to learn foreign languages. **Page 1**

## Hunt for balloon team

The spirit of William Boot was alive and well in Egypt as news-men and the Breeding rescue team raced to find the two balloonists at their remote landing spot in the inhospitable Western Desert. **Pages 1, 4, 5**

## Fraud fight intensifies

Benefit frauds are to be given unprecedented access to people's confidential tax records as the Government's drive against social security fraud intensifies. **Page 2**

## Ernie Wise dies

The stars of stage and screen yesterday paid tribute to the exquisite skills and brilliant timing of Ernie Wise, who has died in hospital. **Page 3**

## Mussolini murder plot

A London man's plot to kill Mussolini was concealed by the Home Secretary and police because of his friendship with the Labour Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald, documents show. **Page 6**

## Pollution shame file

The chemicals giant ICI heads a "Hall of Shame" of 20 companies who are the most flagrant polluters in England and Wales: the Environment Agency will disclose today. **Page 7**

## Ten Commandments for good loving

The Ten Commandments contain answers to relationship problems at the turn of the millennium, a leading Orthodox rabbi claims. The commandments contain as much practical guidance for lovers as many modern self-help books, says Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, who resigned from his north London synagogue after his last book, *Kosher Sex*. **Page 6**

## Quest to save sterling

Paul Sykes is selling off large chunks of his £325 million business empire to devote his life and much of his money to trying to save sterling. **Page 8**

## Born to greatness

We are all born with the ability to perform astonishing artistic, musical or mathematical feats, according to a new study. **Page 9**

## Crime mapped out

A "Domestic" style map of crime in England and Wales is being drawn up as part of Jack Straw's drive to curb criminal and anti-social behaviour. **Page 10**

## Prodi is EU favourite

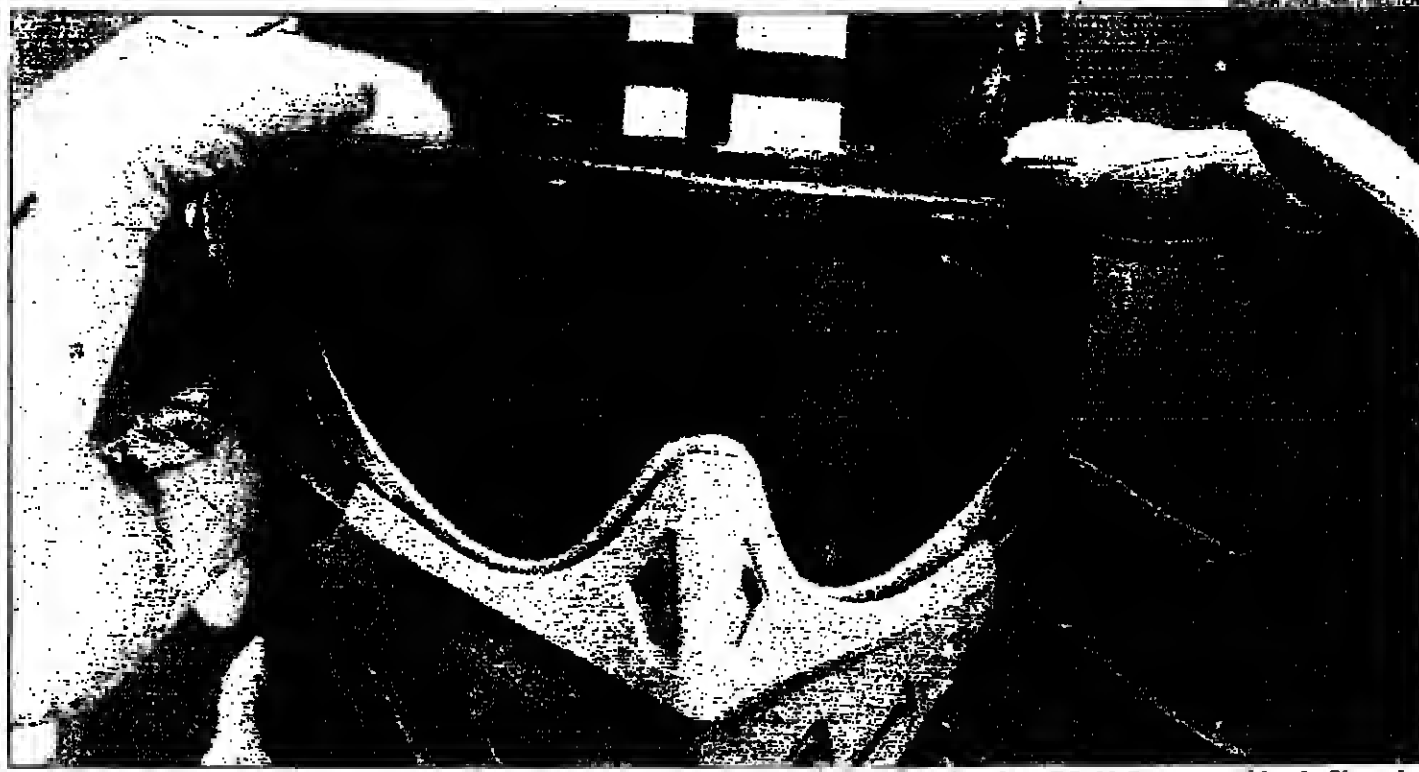
The European Union moved closer to endorsing Romano Prodi, the former Italian Prime Minister, for the European Commission presidency. **Page 11**

## War looms in Zambia

Zambia appears poised to be the latest African nation to be sucked into a war with her neighbours as a spate of bombings and an influx of refugees raise fears of a widening of the civil wars in Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. **Page 13**

## Bears caged for bile

The brochure for the Rullu Dianye factory, where 230 black bears are milked for the bile from their gall bladders, says the animals "enjoy themselves in a comfortable environment". **Page 14**



The Finnish ski jumper Jaane Ahonen reveals his secret weapon — horror eyeballs — for yesterday's World Cup competition in Slovenia

## BUSINESS

## American tax fears

A US tax proposal could cost British companies hundreds of millions of dollars in extra taxes and leave them open to punitive fines. **Page 48**

## Rover subsidy row

The Trade and Industry Secretary may increase the £18 million offer to BMW to secure the future of the Rover plant at Longbridge. **Page 48**

## Hodde's windfall

Michael Hoddle, the butler who wanted to demutualise building societies for windfall payments, has retired and wants Glen Hoddle to continue his quest. **Page 48**

## Poverty brings ingenuity

A report from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation shows how the nation's poorest people have adopted alternative banking methods. **Page 43**

## Private hell

Should one exam on one January day decide a child's educational fate? Shouldn't schools put as much importance on reports from schools? **Page 15**

## Home thoughts

Matthew Williamson draws inspiration for his clothes from the way he decorates his flat. **Pages 16, 17**

## Fashion diary

While the non-winners come to terms with an Oscar-less too this morning, the real heroes of the event have yet to assess the fruits of their labours. **Page 17**

## Lottery jackpot

Three people shared Saturday's National Lottery jackpot of £13,422,717. **Page 19**

## The Gloves are off

English National Opera throws down the gauntlet to Covent Garden as it announces 18 new shows in a bold programme for the Coliseum. **Page 18**

## Best forgotten

In another move, English National Opera unveils a new production of Boito's *Mephistopheles*. But, says Rodney Milnes, the piece doesn't deserve serious staging. **Page 18**

## Toned-down pop

Catania delivers a surprisingly quiet performance in their Brixton Academy gig, but Cerys Matthews shines in the spotlight. **Page 19**

## Supersonic drama

Jane Coles explores the horror of Heathrow in her futuristic new play, *Low Flying Aircraft*, at the Orange Tree in Richmond. **Page 19**

Football: Tottenham Hotspur won their first trophy for eight years when they lifted the Worthington Cup after overcoming Leicester City 1-0. **Page 25, 27**Rugby union: England's victory over France at Twickenham on Saturday may have been unspectacular, but at least it confirmed the growing impression that stability is returning to the team. **Page 33**Golf: Despite nearing his 70th birthday, Arnold Palmer is still playing in tournaments and remains one of the great sporting icons of the second half of the century. **Page 34**Ice hockey: Sheffield Steelers ensured that they will finish a troubled season with at least one trophy by beating Nottingham Panthers in the final of the Superleague Challenge Cup. **Page 29**Rugby league: A spirited performance by Hull Sharks made Bradford Bulls battle all the way for an 8-3 victory. **Page 37**Ten years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, another wall has fallen: the wall which protected the European Commission. It was a wall behind which the Commission became arrogant, impervious to criticism and unanswerable to European citizens. A real government of Europe does not yet exist: the elections to the European Parliament this summer will be our chance to shape one. **La Stampa, Turin**

## TOMORROW

## IN THE TIMES

## ARTS

## From soap to Shakespeare: Kylie Minogue goes legit with the Bard

## LAW

## How should society deal with children who kill?



## RADIO &amp; TV

Preview: Alexei Sayle presents a new series featuring comedy sketches from the archives on a variety of themes. *You Cannot Be Serious* (BBC2, 9.30pm) Review: Paul Hoggart says *Smack the Pony* is "very clever, often surprising and, extremely funny". **Pages 46, 47**

## OPINION

## The third test

The euro must work smoothly to the benefit of all and have clear popular support. Elites see a "successful" euro as a stable, relatively strong currency leading to political union. They take the popularity of monetary union for granted. They should not. **Page 21**

## Credibility contest

The elections of Newark are destined for considerable analysis. In very different ways this contest represents a test of credibility for both the Prime Minister and the leader of the Opposition. **Page 21**

## Lords of the air

The world paid little attention to Bertrand Picard and Brian Jones when they lifted off from the Alps 21 days ago. But their nerve, their skill and their good humour have won them the admiration of enthusiasts and rivals alike. **Page 21**

## WILLIAM REES-MOGG

I can remember Oxford leftists who would glibly talk of the need to break eggs if one was to make omelettes. By breaking eggs, they meant killing people. **Page 20**

## PETER RIDDELL

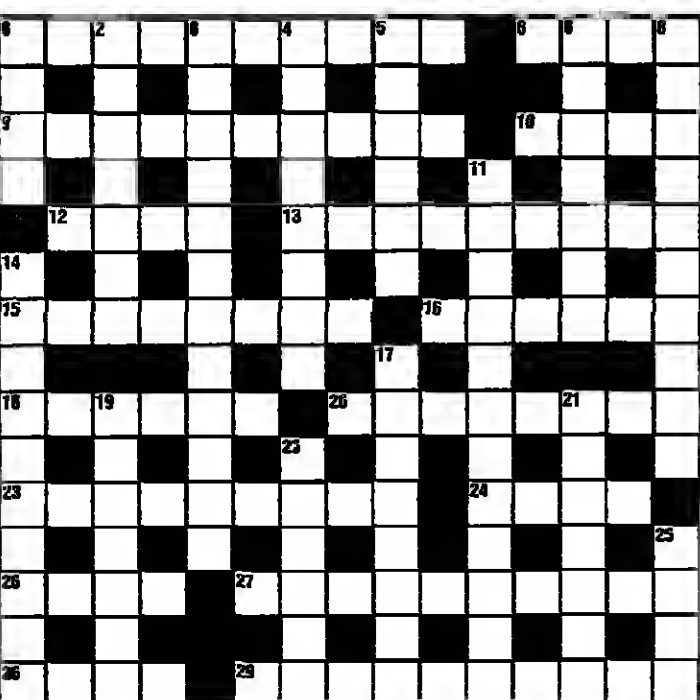
The spectre of a European super-state can be left to the lurid fantasies of Bernard Connolly. Indeed, the latest furor over the European Commission will further limit grandiose ambitions. **Page 20**

## ANNA BLUNDY

Most foreigners visiting Russia leave with an impression of sexual licentiousness, and wonder at the level of personal freedom in a country considered by the West to be averse to pleasure. **Page 20**

Ernie Wise, comedian; Patrick Heron, painter; Lord Gillmore of Thamesfield, diplomat. **Page 23**Concern on GM foods: a "superior alternative" to the A level; racism in the police and legal profession; banana dispute; legal aid changes; women priests. **Page 21**

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,057



- ACROSS
- Way we must protect lives, aware of urban realities (10).
  - Smart brew caught cheek (4).
  - See Western characters disposed to provide inducements (10).
  - Prepare port, perhaps, in Scottish island (4).
  - Stern breed (4).
  - Issue bound to dog cricket side (9).
  - Off balance and not fit enough to lift small weights (8).
  - Man put out about the music sung in church (6).
  - Mission administered by duke after initial hesitation (6).
  - Loudly shows disapproval in military quarters (8).
  - Returned quickly, bearing: hot fish (9).
  - There's nobody in this church of ice (4).
- DOWN
- Small number given go-ahead for retreat (4).
  - New dress suit tailored for lasting quality (10).
  - The resident patient, for example (4).
  - Tendentiously publicity from attorney supporting heathen? (10).
  - Some possess a short strip of cloth (4).
  - Midshipmen initially employed in adverts (7).
  - Giving consideration to receiving guests (12).
  - Pale fellow pinches pound without motive (8).
  - Way an air force acquires energy for bombardment (6).
  - One's in Irish county, behaving like a yob (7).
  - Person with mates in a number of unions (10).
  - Fully functional, like early morning joggers (2,3,7).
  - Note from police officer shot in the arm (10).
  - Curtain in theatre where doctor is involved in dorsal surgery (8).
  - Rowdy old American trio unexpectedly appearing first (7).
  - Anxiety shown when final part of musical performance is changed (7).
  - The question of substance, as distinct from form (6).
  - A lot of the world seeing second half of Disney movie (4).

The solution of Sunday's Prize Puzzle No 21,056 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

Times Two Crossword, page 48

## LATEST ROAD AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

UK Weather: All regions 0236 444 910  
UK Road: All regions 0236 401 410  
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M25 and Link Roads 0236 401 747  
National Photography 0236 401 748  
Channel crossing 0236 401 749  
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## Whipping boy

The trials of  
Tony McCoy  
Page 38

PLUS a chance to meet  
MICHAEL OWEN Page 28

## Teenage kicks

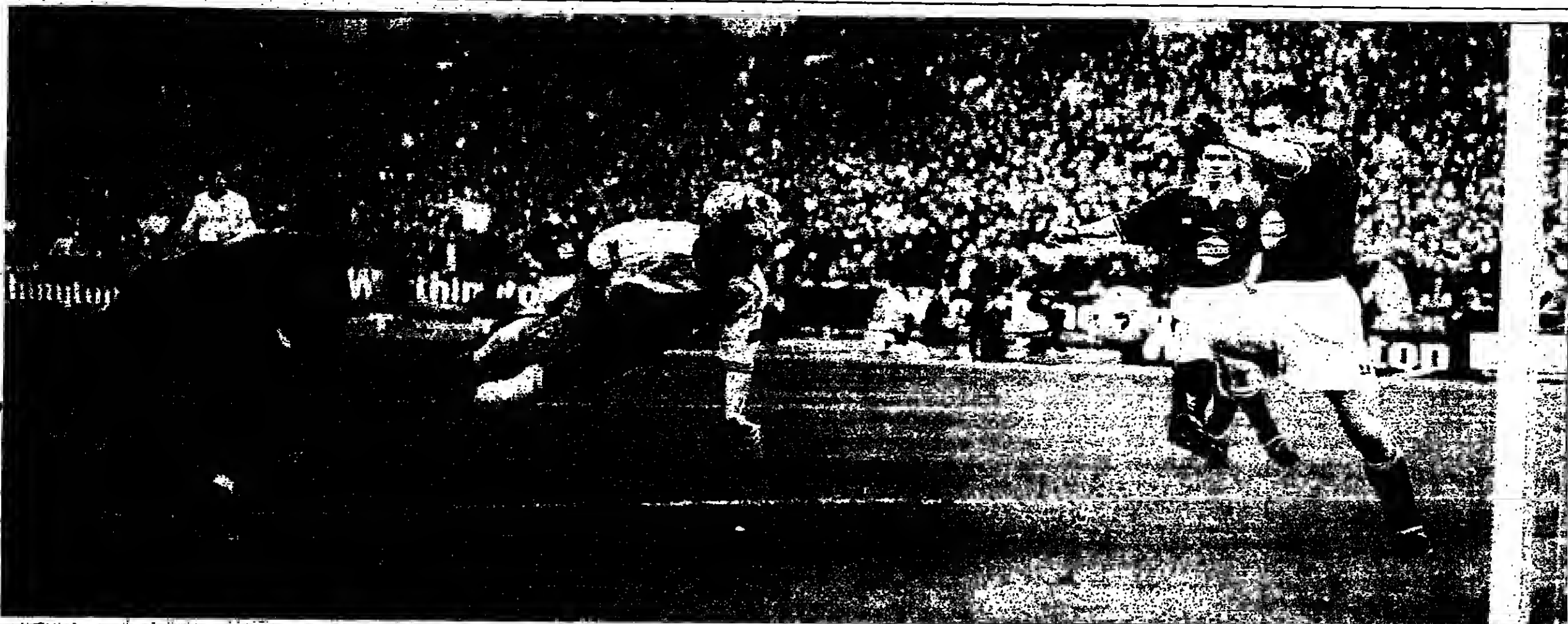
Wilkinson and the  
grand design  
Page 33

## Palmer at bat

McEwan and the  
grand design  
Page 33

# TIMES SPORT 15 PAGES

MONDAY MARCH 22 1999



Stooping to conquer: Nielsen drives to head the last-minute goal that gave Tottenham Hotspur victory yesterday. Ironically, the Denmark midfielder player was only in the team because Tim Sherwood was cup-tied. Photograph: Marc Aspland

## Tottenham complete Graham's revival

THIS was not a day for David Ginola. He was blown away in the tempest that raged around Wembley and made the flags crack and curl. This was a day for more prosaic talents and once it came down to grit and graft and the sheer unquenchable desire to win, then the team managed by George Graham was always going to have the edge.

This scrappy win in the Worthington Cup final, this victory of ten men over 11, bore his hallmark. This Tottenham Hotspur side has his personality stamped all over it. In past times, Spurs would have folded under the attritional assault that Leicester City subjected them to. Folding was what they were all about. Not any more.

They had Justin Edinburgh sent off in the 63rd minute for aiming a slap at Robbie Savage when Leicester had already established a measure of supremacy, but still they did not buckle. In fact, they began to recover. Then, when the match was deep in injury time, Allan Nielsen, a Dane who was only in the side because

### Oliver Holt watches Leicester City succumb 1-0 in the Worthington Cup final at Wembley

Tim Sherwood was cup-tied, raced the length of the pitch to be in the right place when Kasey Keller spooned Steffen Iversen's cross-shot into his path and stooped to nod the ball over the line.

Now, just seven months after Graham took over a club that was in patent disarray after the combined mismanagement of Alan Sugar and Christian Gross, he has led them back into Europe for the first time in seven years.

Already, they are a team in their master's image. There is the promise of more to come, too. Graham won this competition in his first season in charge at Highbury in 1987 and went on to lift five more trophies in the next six years of his reign at Arsenal. Spurs, remember, are also only one step away from an appearance in the FA Cup Final.

When Graham walked up the steps at Wembley yesterday, took his place in the line of players kissing the cup and lifting it to the heavens, it also marked the end of his rehabilitation after the financial scandal that surrounded his departure from Arsenal. He repaired his reputation at Leeds United and transformed them into a club capable of challenging for honours. It needed a win, though, to get him back into the big time and that was what his players earned him against Leicester.

They did it his way. They won 1-0, of course, and not through the flair of Ginola, who was marked out of the game by the outstanding Robert Ullathorne. They won it because of the determination of men such as Steffen Freund, who celebrated at the end with the abandon of a man who had never won even a copper trinket, not a decorated player who has lifted the European Cup.

Above all, though, they won it because of the excellence of their defence, the way that Sol Campbell and Ramon Vega, who has reinvented himself as a competent centre-back, snuffed out the threat of Emile Heskey and Tony Cottee.

They and the rest of the Spurs team hung in there when the odds were against them. Once, they might have been easy meat for practised giantkillers like Leicester, but yesterday Martin O'Neill's team found that the tables had been turned on them. Suddenly, they were favourites but they were playing against a team of furies. For Leicester, there was only misery. Cottee, who has never won a winner's medal, broke down in the arms of his manager. The rest slumped to the turf.

Graham was understated afterwards. He has made it plain that he has loftier ambitions, that the thought of the championship is what drives him on. His hope, though, was that this victory would help his team move on to greater things. "It is always nice to win a trophy, especially at Wembley," Graham said. "It is always good coming back here. The place has an aura. I was pleased with the way my

team played. Funnily enough, I thought we looked very good with ten men. It would not have bothered me if the match had gone into extra time. I still expected to win.

"I didn't think I would win anything in my first season here, but I have got nothing but admiration for the players. They have really knuckled down. I hope this gives them an appetite for more.

"There were too many good players here who looked as though they were going to go through their career without winning anything. I hope this has given them a taste of what success is like."

Ninety minutes after the game, when dusk had fallen and Wembley was deserted, Graham led his team across the pitch towards the Royal Box and the exit where their team coach waited. Darren Anderton pointed up some steps and said that was the way out but Graham went in another direction. The rest of the team, in blazers, shirts and ties, followed him out.

Match report, page 27



Now: 12 years on, a triumphant Graham lifts the Worthington Cup at Wembley yesterday



Then: Graham, right, celebrates victory with Arsenal in 1987

### ON OTHER PAGES

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United's late surge.....26  
Chelsea bounce back.....26

**ARSENAL**  
1987 League Cup  
1988 League championship  
1991 League championship  
1993 FA Cup; League Cup  
1994 Cup Winners' Cup  
**TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR**  
1999 League Cup

ALEX FERGUSON (Aberdeen & Manchester United): 18 trophies.  
BOB PASKLEY (Liverpool): 13  
MATT BUSBY (Manchester United): 8  
BILL SHANKLY (Liverpool): 7  
DON REVE (Leeds United): 7  
GEORGE GRAHAM (Arsenal & Tottenham Hotspur): 7

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## FA Carling Premiership: Weakened leaders end Everton's resistance with second-half surge

# United are ready to reserve best until last

A SURPRISED Old Trafford bubbled in the second half, with the mercurial of people discovering that rationing has just been abolished. Until then, they might have expected another afternoon of stern, if productive, measures. Manchester United, the leaders of the FA Carling Premiership, occasionally grade their games, allocating just enough flair and energy to overcome the weaker teams.

This match yesterday appeared to have been cut from the same pattern as victories over Derby County and Southampton, in which deliberately weakened line-ups failed to score in the first half, before scrambling success after the interval. It was not clear that United would enjoy that degree of effectiveness. With Roy Keane and Paul Scholes suspended, and Ryan Giggs injured, Alex Ferguson, the United manager, also chose to omit Denis Irwin.

Even minimalism can run to excess and United were running a risk. Those regulars who remain in the team in this situation must function, because there are too few established men around them to compensate for any lapse. For a long time, United's expertise was not operational. The deficit in performance could be glimpsed when someone such as David Beckham, the virtuoso of the cross, hit the first defender as he tried to deliver the ball.

So great are the reserves of talent, though, that United are always likely to tap it at some point. In this case, Dwight Yorke, the leading scorer, turned himself into an accomplice as he himself burgled the goals from a defence that had been well-cured. His work as a provider had, curiously, been less impressive when he was drifting behind the attack.

At the interval, Ferguson restored his partnership with Andy Cole and nicked Ole Gunnar Solskjaer on the left wing. The Norwegian, nonetheless, was not at all isolated from impact. After 54 minutes, Yorke was the pivot in the one-two that took Solskjaer through to drive across Thomas Myhre. It was his sixteenth goal in a season in which he has



by Kevin McCarthy

started just 14 games. The Everton goalkeeper was then seen squabbling with the men in front of him, but any offence was venial when compared with Myhre's failings for the second goal. Yorke, in the 63rd minute, struck a studied pass into the right of the penalty area. Myhre was expected to be first to it and, even had he elected to remain on his line, he would have been safe, so acute was the angle for the advancing Gary Neville.

As it was, he did not collect and the full back, beating him to the ball, squeezed a shot into the untended net. Neville had not scored for almost two years, but, then again, he is rarely abetted in this fashion, either. United would probably have coped without the assistance, even if the scale of the victory might have been reduced.

"We have had a spell of six games in 18 days in which the players have excelled," Ferguson said. "They go off with their countries now, but they will return from that break ready for the challenge."

Giggs, Solskjaer and Beckham are all injured, although, according to Ferguson, the latter has a chance of overcoming a calf strain in time for England's game with Poland on Saturday.

The force with which Beckham established a 3-0 lead might, by itself, have been enough to make a muscle twinge. Without a goal since November 4, he studied a free kick hungrily before bending the ball into the top corner in the 66th minute.

"It was good for him to score," Ferguson said. "He has had a little drought, because we can usually count on him for 12 or 14 goals a season."

At Everton, every player is experiencing a famine. No matter how rugged they can look in defence, they are always vulnerable because they cannot transfer the pressure to the opposition by scoring. The resistance shown early in the game was of no comfort to Walter Smith, the manager, who said: "We weren't really getting out of our own half."

It would be glib to invest Ibrahim Bakayoko's early hamstring injury with significance. The forward has too rarely been relevant, even when in perfect health.

Don Hutchison did find the net with a booming free kick in the 71st minute, but, at that stage, the audience was more absorbed in considering Jonathan Greening, a lively substitute, who was twice close to scoring for United. Everton will have to give opponents food for thought before they can nourish their hopes of staying in the Premiership.

**MANCHESTER UNITED (4-3-1-2):** P. Schmeichel; G. Neville, J. S. Smith, N. Butt, J. O'Brien; O. Yorke; D. G. Solskjaer (sub J. Collins, 90), A. Cole (sub S. Thompson, 67).  
**EVERTON (4-3-2):** M. Myhre; O. Wier, M. Moller; C. Short, M. Ball; J. O'Brien (sub F. Jeffers, 60), D. Hutchison, D. G. O'Brien; J. Bakayoko (sub D. O'Brien, 59), O. Hutchison.  
Referee: M. Riley



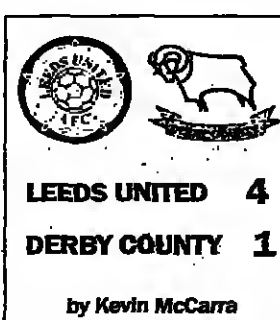
Beckham's fiercely struck free kick made United's victory safe

## O'Leary stays calm as youthful glow surrounds Elland Road

LEEDS UNITED are the most appealing side in the FA Carling Premiership, even if their charm will be lost on Derby County. Virtues and speculations are crammed into Elland Road, where swift, streamlined football is being produced by a team that contains several exciting young players and is not afflicted by the sort of figures whose self-regard is even more distended than their salaries.

Only one man quibbles. As the manager, discontentment is an obligation for David O'Leary. He stands in the face of those who believe that this side could emulate the achievements of Don Revie's Leeds United side of the early 1970s. Even the greats of that era, like Peter Lorimer, Allan Clarke and Norman Hunter, have gone on record as saying that this team can be as good, if not better, than the one they all played for.

Although outnumbered in the debate, O'Leary remains resolute in declaring the limitations of his side. Another victory will equal the club record of seven consecutive wins in the league, but he would still dismiss it as a trick of the light. He sees no substance, either, in claims that Leeds can



by Kevin McCarthy

grasp third place in the table and enter the European Cup next season. Satisfaction is too close to inertia for his liking. On Saturday, O'Leary spoke of Manchester United's willingness to spend £10 million or £12 million on players to top up a pool already at a high level of achievement. Although the words emerged fluently, he might have been giving a rendition of a script he had come across while clearing out the desk of his predecessor, George Graham.

In their undermanned way, O'Leary and Graham have both tried to apply thumbscrews to the Leeds board. It is the duty of a manager to dream and to aspire while the directors labour over calculations about borrowing,

interest payments and the prospect of a return on investment in the transfer market. If O'Leary speaks in a carefully measured way that only highlights the depth of his feeling, it is because he is tantalised. He could be in possession of an exceptional side, but senses the ease with which it might disintegrate over the closing phase of the season.

Suspensions are unlikely but Stephen McPhail, a slick replacement on Saturday for David Batty, who is unwell, must join the Republic of Ireland party for the world youth championship next month.

"It's a fantastic tournament in Nigeria and we lose him for five weeks. He'll improve over there," O'Leary said, with blithering. He is sure that he needs costly signings this summer. Jim Smith, the Derby manager, applauded Leeds's attacking, but it was possible to flip that statement over and read on the back some reservations about their defending.

Even so, the headless tackle on Vassilis Borkakis with which Lucas Radebe conceded a penalty in the second minute, which Francesco Baiano converted, was more aberration than structural fault. Leeds are too confident

right now to be stung into anxious retaliation. Instead, they gradually stepped up the pace of their fluent passing and movement.

Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink's cross broke from Spencer Prior and, as the centre back lunged in an effort to recover, Lee Bowyer stepped round him to hit the equaliser. Hasselbaink was then set up for the low drive that put Leeds ahead. After 44 minutes, Willem Korsten, who is on loan from Vitesse Arnhem, efficiently killed Hasselbaink's pass and fired home. Six minutes from the end, Ian Harte shook a slumbering second-half awake by slamming a 25-yard shot into the top corner.

Derby, missing seven players, had been in no condition to break their habit of conceding goals to Leeds, who have relished 15 in the last four meetings between the teams. As O'Leary's plans progress, other wills join Derby in flinching at the sight of Leeds.

**LEEDS UNITED (4-3-3):** M. Mann; A. H. Harte, L. Radebe, J. Woodgate, H. Harte; L. Bowyer, O. Hopson, S. McPhail; J. F. Hasselbaink, H. Harte, W. Korsten (sub M. Jones, 88min).  
**DERBY COUNTY (3-4-1-2):** M. Poot; I. Harte, S. Elton, A. Harte, L. Bowyer, S. Elton, L. Bowyer (sub B. Lasham, 78), O. Poot, V. Borkakis; F. Baiano (sub M. Christie, 46), K. Harte, O. Burt. Referee: M. Reed



Gary Neville takes advantage of a mistake by Myhre, Everton's floundering goalkeeper, to squeeze home the second goal for United

## Chelsea rediscover self-belief

THE dip in form was, after all, just a hiccup and Chelsea's title challenge is re-energised — not just because they won at Villa Park yesterday but, having spent all season winning by the narrowest of margins, this result represented a relative goal glut, a sign that confidence is high and the team is local church.

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It is not Chelsea's style to grab a lucky goal, however many chances Villa presented, and they took the lead in the 59th minute through a glorious move with Ferrer looping the ball down the right flank to Flo, who dragged the ball away from Southgate and then placed it delicately beyond Bosnich's reach.

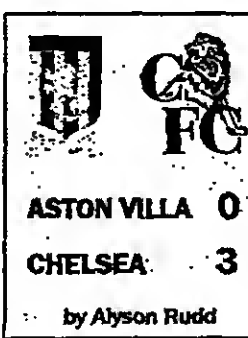
The Aston Villa manager is a down-to-earth character with little time for the game's psychology, yet he is being forced to accept that brains are being added. "My belief was either you can play or you can't play, but obviously the self-belief has evaporated," Gregory's task is made harder by the fact he labels as "chalk and cheese" the attitude on the training ground when compared to that on the pitch.

For the first 45 minutes, however, there was hope. Chelsea appeared set on maintaining their frustrating habit of dominating possession without offering anything incisive. The Villa defence flapped and flustered, but were let off the hook by a host of near-misses, most notably when Flo's cross-goal pass saw Wise dive a second too late.

Just before the interval Villa finally threatened to undermine Chelsea's unproductive probing when Dublin met Thompson's cross, but De Gea saved with ease. Yet when the teams resumed after half-time, Villa became a parody of their first-half display with the passing yards off target and whenever presented with options, the poorer one was chosen.

This was Flo back to his best. Since his rushed return from injury, he has lacked the deception that accompanies his general awkwardness. The Norwegian linked up well with Zola throughout and the Villa back three became increasingly exasperated.

Gregory opted to replace his strike force, with both Dublin and Collymore making way for Joachim and Merson. Given how every decision relating to Collymore is analysed as to how well or insensitively the Villa manager is handling his troubled forward, bringing him off at the same time as Dublin was the cleverest way to inject some energy



by Alyson Rudd



Goldback celebrates scoring Chelsea's second at Villa Park yesterday

into his team's performance. It almost worked, with a rare error from Desailly, letting Joachim in with a real chance, although to be fair to the Frenchman, few players would have scampered so swiftly after the back-pass. Joachim put his job just wide, however.

While Chelsea weaved all manner of openings, Zola was most wasteful, and eventually Goldback made it 2-0. The Dane had looked more effective the minute Vialli switched him to his favoured right wing, but he deserved the goal for all the energy he expended in Chelsea's cause. Desailly plucked the ball out of a cluster of bodies on the edge of the area and found Flo, who headed Goldback's instruction and played the ball into his feet.

Not since November had Chelsea won by a three-goal margin, but with Villa's confidence ebbing at an alarming rate, Flo scored the visitors' third, latching on to Morris's gentle chip. Whether Flo's first touch was intentional hardly mattered, for it took the ball past Bosnich and made the finish a formality — unlike the destination of the Premiership title, now that Chelsea look sleek once more.

"We approach all our games as if they are finals," Vialli said. In his terms, that does not mean Chelsea go crazy with helter-skelter football, but apply greater self-discipline, something Gregory knows his team needs but cannot find.

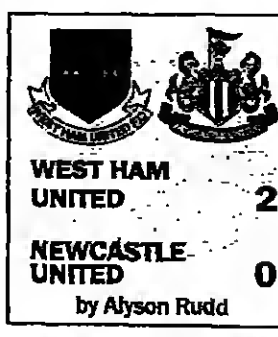
**ASTON VILLA (3-5-2):** M. Bosnich; R. Smeeth, G. Southgate, G. Barry, S. Wilson, S. Stone, L. Hendrie (sub: T. Taylor, 88min), A. Thompson, A. Wright; O. Dublin (sub: P. Merson, 74), S. Collymore (sub: J. Joachim).  
**CHELSEA (4-4-2):** E. De Gea; A. Farnor, M. Desailly, F. Lebedev, G. La Saus; O. Petrucci (sub: B. Lasham, 78), O. Wier, J. Morris, S. Goldback; G. Zola, T. Flo (sub: M. Nichols, 90). Referee: O. Barber

## Redknapp has last laugh as Di Canio weaves spell

WHEN it comes to deciding the best buy of the season it may well be that Harry Redknapp steals it with his capture of Paolo Di Canio. Talk about bargains: Di Canio was burdened with a full complement of suitcases, rucksack and naff wallet on a string. As Danny Wilson, the Sheffield Wednesday manager, off-loaded him the "Harry don't do it" doom merchants were in full swing. Di Canio was, by many, considered a shirker, inconsistent, volatile and a liability.

Yet against Newcastle United on Saturday he was tireless, a constant threat, plucky and irreplaceable. Here is a player who, as Redknapp pointed out, had experienced a longer break from football than any player would during the summer's break. This followed his ban after pushing a referee to the ground and his subsequent self-imposed exile.

Possibly the worst place for the Italian striker to re-emerge was Upton Park where so-called difficult players — from Joey Beauchamp to Marco Boogers — have pouted and departed under a cloud. The sniggering over the fact that Redknapp was prepared to pay £1.6 million for a walking, talking tantrum in tight shorts



by Alyson Rudd

could be heard all the way to the basement nightclubs in Sheffield where they once sang Di-Canio instead of D-I-S-C-O.

And now? Redknapp can talk about a player who never stops training and is so patently talented that his manager can smirk and joke: "If he works on his ball control, he'll be a decent player."

Di Canio gave West Ham the lead, playing to the whistle and not the flag as Paul Durkin, the referee, ignored his assistant, having seen that the ball was played through by Dabiz, and allowed Di Canio to easily round Given who, like his defenders, had seemingly assumed Di Canio was about to be booked for hogging the ball and made little effort to halt his run.

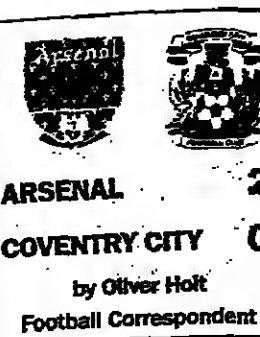
Di Canio slips and slides and over-elaborates, but in this sort of mood is a definite match-winner. He provided Kitson with several inch-perfect crosses that his striking partner wasted. Eventually, Kitson turned and scored after a through-ball by Lampard, brushing aside a dispirited Newcastle defence.

Newcastle were second best from the start, with a formation that Rued Gullit, their manager, preferred to see as adventurous but was really wasteful. Saha and Maric played behind Shearer but rarely became involved in either attack or midfield and the result was that West Ham were given an easy ride through the centre.

Shearer's present lack of mobility was clear and those who feel Kevin Keegan has been hasty in guaranteeing him the England captaincy will hardly have been heartened by his contribution here, where he was no more than a decent target man with some bite at free kicks.

**WEST HAM UNITED (4-4-2):** S. Heslop; I. Payne, N. Rodford, R. Fiedler, S. Maric; F. Lampard, S. Lomas, M. V. Fox, T. Shearer; P. Kitson, P. Di Canio.  
**NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-3-3-1):** S. Given; G. Gough, L. R. Lee, B. Smith, N. Sorensen, G. Speed; S. Maric (sub: T. Nichols, 59), L. Saha; A. Shearer. Referee: P. Dutton

## Kanu runs in on crest of a wave



by Oliver Holt  
Football Correspondent

IT ALWAYS seems to be some time around December when Arsenal's performances lull us into writing them off. It is always about now when we stop repending gently and realise, with a shudder, just how good they actually are.

It happened last season, when age seemed to be catching up with them and they were traipsing off to the South of France for rest-cures — like old men going to take the waters in a spa town. It happened this season, when we beat Arsène Wenger with a stick sharpened with the accusation that he had not strengthened a championship winning side.

As Arsenal, temporarily at least, closed the gap between themselves and Manchester United at the top of the FA Carling Premiership to one point at Highbury on Saturday, Wenger's squad looked every bit as well prepared for the run-in as Alex Ferguson's. This was a second-year meander for Arsenal.

In the past, Wenger might have introduced Christopher Wreh or Luis Bos Morre into the fray when the legs of the rest got tired. They were limited players. Now, though, Arsenal can call upon the sublime skills of Kanu to help them finish off nattering opponents and, on Saturday, the Nigerian forward performed the task to perfection.

His languor is almost hypnotic, his pique a joy to watch. He has that wonderfully instinctive gift bestowed on only a few: being able to delay a pass until its intended recipient has found space. He makes room for himself effortlessly and the way that he has adapted to the pace of the English game already suggests that not only will he be a more than adequate replacement for Dennis Bergkamp, in the

Sunderland surge on — 28  
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Champions' League away matches next season, but he may soon be pressing for a starting place himself.

After Ray Parlour had given Arsenal the lead in the seventeenth minute with a neat finish with the outside of his right foot, the game had descended into a stalemate. Much of Arsenal's bite disappeared when Parlour moved to right back because of Dixon's injury and Coventry City should have been awarded a penalty when David Seaman, flapping at a low cross from Huckerby, compounded his error by impeding Froggatt. The referee waved play on.

Coventry's misfortunes increased in the second half when Roland Nilsson was taken off on a stretcher with what later transpired to be two cracked ribs and a punctured lung, following an innocent clash with Petit.

Then, with 14 minutes left, Wenger brought on Kanu for Anelka. Anelka stormed down the tunnel in a fit of pique but, within five minutes, Kanu had justified his manager's faith. He pounced on a weak defensive header by Shaw, trapping the ball and turning away from McAllister in the same movement. He slipped it through the legs of Konig and then prodded it out to the left where Overmars dispatched it across Hedman and into the corner of the Coventry net.

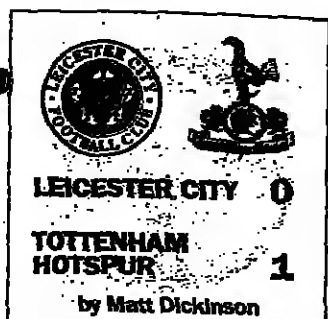
"Sometimes, nobody wants to gamble on players like Kanu," Wenger said, "because they know that, if they get it wrong, they will get a lot of stick. It took a lot of talk and a lot of patience to get him away from Inter Milan. Maybe I should have reacted quicker at the start of the season to bring new people in, but it is important to get players at the right price. What Kanu does is always intelligent and creative. I think it was worth the wait."

**ARSENAL (4-4-2):** D. Seaman; L. Dixon (sub: F. Ljungberg, 28min), M. Keown, T. Adomah, M. Hutchinson; R. Parfitt, P. Viera; R. Pelt, M. Overmars (sub: K. Dixon, 84); A. Anelka (sub: Kanu, 78), O. Bergkamp.  
**COVENTRY CITY (4-5-1):** M. Hedman; R. Nilsson (sub: M. S. Smith, 70), M. Konig, F. Shaw, D. Burrows; P. Froggatt, T. Seaton (sub: S. Glaszcinski, 78), G. McAllister, E. Carr, S. Froggatt; O. Huckerby. Referee: P. Alcock



## Worthington Cup final: Leicester lapse allows ten-man Tottenham to claim victory

# Nielsen's strike beats the clock



THERE were less than two minutes to go in the Worthington Cup final at Wembley yesterday when Martin O'Neill gestured to his team to run out the clock. His thinking, which made perfect sense at the time, was that, with an extra half-hour, his 11 men could pick off Tottenham Hotspur's tiring ten.

In those circumstances, the Leicester City manager could afford to think of extra time but his defence, critically, could not. Caught without cover, even though they had an extra man on the field, they allowed Steve Walsh to be isolated against a far quicker Steffen Iversen.

It was probably their first defensive mistake of the afternoon and it proved decisive. Bursting into the penalty box, the Norwegian's cross-shot was only parried by Kasey Keller and there was Allan Nielsen to fling himself at the ball. In a flash of Nielsen's blond mane, O'Neill's plans had become obsolete.

It was a dramatic finale that meant most of what had gone before could be forgotten. There have been some disappointing Wembley finals in recent years, but this was surely the worst. It certainly was not the feast of football that the Football League would have wanted to set before Lenhart Johansson, the president of Uefa, the European governing body of football that plans to strip this competition of its European place and thus its sole incentive for the big clubs.

The president will be less sympathetic than ever. What began as a competitive game — football-speak for a boring one — degenerated after an hour into an ugly and malicious one. Worse than the bad tackles were the repeated attempts by players to get each other sent off, to the extent that it was almost inevitable that one would eventually walk.

Justin Edinburgh was the man to go for swinging his hand across Robbie Savage's face and, while the contact was not strong enough to leave a scratch, the intent was sufficient to deserve the red card. The Tottenham full back became only the second player to be sent off in a League Cup final after Andrei Kanchelskii's dismissal in 1994.

"It was the worst half-hour of my life after that," Edinburgh said, but it was not a whole lot better for his adversary. Savage, who was booked for the initial clumsy foul, enraged the Tottenham players by theatrically clutching his face and the match briefly turned into a Savage sideshow as Tottenham attempted to exact retribution.

Steffen Freund and Nielsen were particularly vehement in their complaints to the referee, with the German pathetically faking injury in an attempt to con the official. "I was worried that Savage might be sent off," O'Neill said, explaining his decision to substitute the Wales international, and it was a wonder, given the Spurs player's antics, that he was not proved correct.

The irony was that Spurs should play so much better after their reduction to ten men on 62 minutes, but then only a George Graham team could draw such strength from adversity. "The sending-off was probably the turning-point of the game against us," O'Neill said, "because we were totally dominant at the time."

Leicester had just come closest to a goal when Rob Ullathorne had taken a rare break from trailing David Ginola to move forward and unleash a 20-yard drive. Ian Walker had fumbled his shot, just recovering in time to block Tony Cottie.

It was a sign of Leicester's growing dominance as O'Neill's pack of midfield terriers began to get the better of Spurs. Ginola, who was conscientiously marked by Ullathorne all game, had disappeared altogether and O'Neill must have thought that his usual meticulous preparation was to pay off.

His side looked confident of winning this competition for the second time in three years. But the sending-off roused Spurs more than their opponents and, suddenly, they were finding space in midfield that had not existed before. Freund and Iversen began winning the



Nielsen kisses the Worthington Cup and clutches his man-of-the-match award after scoring an unlikely winning goal in the final minutes. Photograph: Marc Aspland

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## Places in Europe still up for grabs

By Bill Edgar

VICTORY in the Worthington Cup final made Tottenham Hotspur the first English club to qualify for European competition next season, but the question of who will join them on the Continent is about as clear as the grey skies around Wembley yesterday.

Three cups may have become two with the demise of the Cup Winners' Cup this summer, but any hopes that matters have been simplified can be forgotten. The confusion centres on the Uefa Cup — which will be explained later.

Despite the apparently growing importance of continental competition to clubs here, England have been promised only six entries, one fewer than this season. It is the elite who are being rewarded, the top three in the FA Cup, the top three in the Premiership going into the Champions' League — one more than this season.

If Manchester United win the European Cup this season, the only way that four English teams will qualify for the competition is if United, improbably, finish outside the top three in the Premiership. The top two go straight into the group stages, while the team finishing third must play in the final qualifying round. Clubs losing in the qualifiers or finishing third in their group stage will then switch seamlessly to the Uefa Cup.

England have been guaranteed three places there, Tottenham being joined by the winners of the FA Cup and the fourth-placed Premiership side. Uefa have yet to decide what will happen if a team that has already qualified for the Champions' League wins the FA Cup, a feat both United and Arsenal could achieve. If Chelsea finish fourth in the Premiership and win the Cup Winners' Cup, the fifth-placed team would qualify for Europe.

Two further factors will determine Uefa Cup qualification — the Interoto Cup and fair play tables. Three places will be awarded to teams in each category, and both could supply further English entrants. Uefa has promised England two places in the Interoto Cup. Those who have shored an interest include Newcastle United, Middlesbrough, Wimbledon, Derby County, Southampton and Leicester City. The two teams finishing the highest in the Premiership will qualify.

The country topping Uefa's fair play table, presently Scotland, will supply one team with the other clubs coming from the two nations that win a ballot of those second to tenth in the table, which, at the moment, includes England. The successful countries must enter the team that tops their own fair play table, at present Manchester United followed by Sheffield Wednesday.

**'It's always nice to win a trophy Wembley... the place has an aura'**

— George Graham



Edinburgh is sent off after being involved in a fracas with Savage. He is believed to have been late



**'The sending-off was the turning point. We were totally dominant at the time'**

— Martin O'Neill

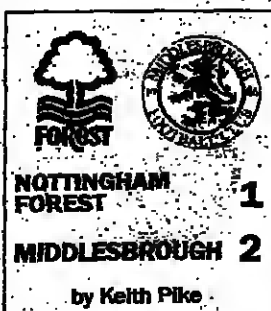
## Atkinson fuming as Forest lies in ashes

ONE hour after the final whistle and the self-proclaimed Nottingham Forest firefighter was himself still smouldering to the point of self-combustion. RA may be emblazoned on the tracksuit, but not even Red Adair could rescue Forest now, never mind Ron Atkinson.

Poor pitch, poor match, poor Forest. Ten points adrift of safety, eight games to go, no home win since August and the little manner of Leeds United, Liverpool and Derby County in their next three games. All that remains is to dot the 'i' and cross the 't' in the word relegation and Forest's third descent from the FA Cup Premiership in seven seasons will be confirmed.

And then? Atkinson was too consumed with the inadequacies of the present to concern himself about the nuances of the Nationwide League, but the prospects for another swift return from exile seem horribly remote. The club's debts are such that Atkinson, or whoever succeeds him as manager, is thought likely to have to have the £9 million annual wage bill, while eight members of the first-team squad are out of contract this summer.

It almost goes without saying that Forest enjoyed precious little luck against Middlesbrough, who left the City Ground on Saturday convinced that their own battle against the drop was all but won. Apart from the opening and closing stages, Forest



by Keith Pike



Ron Atkinson: angered

hour," he said. "The game was there to be won and we didn't show any mental stress at all. We have had to play top-class opposition in our other home games, but with all due respect to Middlesbrough, they were there for the taking." Pause. Sharp intake of breath.

"We are not good enough to gift teams goals." (Crossley blunders with clearance, Ricard holds off Mattsson: 1-0 down.) Pause. "We had the psychological thing of coming back after going behind." (Shipperley heads down. Freedman squeezes shot past Schwarzer from 18 yards; 1-1.) Long pause. "We get a head of steam up in the second half and, all of a sudden, one or two people start doing stupid things." (Cottle misses 87th-minute header, Edwards misses Deane: 1-2, game over.) Protracted, deathly silence. Exit.

For Middlesbrough, Gascoigne and O'Neill were kept under wraps on the bench as they beat Forest for the first time in 25 attempts. For the home team, Van Hooijdonk excelled in his new, deeper "I will play anywhere if it helps the team" role. What a joke. As punishment, he should be made to stay.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (3-4-1-2): M. Crossley — C. Edwards, J. Morrison (sub: N. Perovic, 67min), S. Crockett — M. Ljung, Jean C. Palmer, C. Denham (sub: T. Bonalart, 76), A. Rogers — P. Van Hooijdonk, D. Freedman (sub: M. Hestwood, 48), N. Shipperley.

## Sutton stakes claim for England return

IF Chris Sutton has a heart the size of a dustbin lid, Ashley Ward's should be bigger still. Together, they inspire a club that has experienced much despair this season: they are players who personify the ethos of their manager, Brian Kidd, and upon whose continued excellence Kidd is reliant.

Personal despair, of differing gravity, has also affected Sutton and Ward, the Blackburn Rovers forwards. Sutton, whose commitment to the Ewood Park cause prompted Kidd to evaluate the size of his heart thus, has had to cope with injuries, suspensions and an international exile this season. He has overcome such frustrations, however, with plenty of dignity intact. Niggling thigh and ankle problems were not expected to prevent him from joining the England squad at Bisham Abbey last night and, such was his effective performance against Wimbledon on Saturday, that it would be no surprise if Kevin Keegan, the new England manager, selected him from the start against Poland next weekend.

Ward's crisis was of a more personal nature. Last week, his mother suffered a brain haemorrhage and Ward was told by Kidd that he did not have to play. Kidd said: "When something like that happens, you realise that there is a bigger picture to consider, but Ashley insisted on playing to help our cause. That tells you what a great human being he is." Ward's professionalism was rewarded with a



by Stephen Wood

goal, his fourth since joining Blackburn from Barnsley for £4.5 million. It prefaced two other strikes from the home side, which brought their first victory in eight matches and lifted them out of the bottom three of the FA Cup Premiership.

Moments before he left Ewood Park to visit his mother in hospital, Ward said: "Things looked less than rosy this week, but I decided that it was important for me to try and carry on as normal. My mum is gradually getting better and hopefully everything will be OK."

With Sutton and Ward in tandem, Blackburn should avoid relegation and although he failed to score himself, some of Sutton's work with his back to goal, against a Wimbledon defence that veered between the brutal and the non-existent, was outstanding.

Matt Jansen, surely an England player of the future, was on hand to claim the second and third goals as Blackburn's surge secured the match by the 26th minute. Wimbledon were ragged, and John Hartson, their forward, was a personification of this and was substituted at half-time. A Jason Euell goal midway through the second half was their only consolation.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (3-4-1-2): M. Crossley — C. Edwards, J. Morrison (sub: N. Perovic, 67min), S. Crockett — M. Ljung, Jean C. Palmer, C. Denham (sub: T. Bonalart, 76), A. Rogers — P. Van Hooijdonk, D. Freedman (sub: M. Hestwood, 48), N. Shipperley.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (3-5-2): J. Folan — J. McAra, S. Hendrick, D. Prescott, C. Davidson — D. Johnson (sub: K. Galloway, 81min), D. Morrison, J. Wilson (sub: M. Taylor, 89) — C. Sutton, A. Ward, M. Jansen (sub: D. Duff, 57).

WIMBLEDON (3-4-2-1): N. Sullivan — K. Cunningham, D. Blackwell, S. Thatcher, A. Roberts — J. Burt, R. Eadie, N. Ardley (sub: C. Hughes, 48), M. Hughes, J. Hartson (sub: E. Enoch, 48), M. Gayle. Referee: G. Wilson

## Southampton ready to build on escape plan

THEY remain almost unbeatable at home, five wins on the trot there prolonging the belief that Southampton might just yet avoid relegation. So what do the club do on Saturday? Confirm plans to knock The Dell down. Predictably enough, there is no place for sentiment in the decision to move to a shiny new 32,000-seat stadium.

"It is all about getting burns on seats," Dave Jones, the manager, said on Saturday with admirable realism. "That's the reality of football finance now. The Dell holds 15,000 so, at the moment, the only thing we've got in common with Manchester United is that we are both sold out every week."

It was impossible to disagree with the financial logic, but as yet another full house roared Southampton to victory on Saturday, one could not help but reflect wistfully on the ground that has served the club so well for 101 years. The Dell seems to suit the homely little club so well, and while a sparkling new stadium may be essential if they are to compete with the FA Cup Premiership's nouveau riche, it will look like delusions of grandeur if they are in the Nationwide League first division by the time the bulldozers arrive.

The fight against relegation will be another agonising one, but Southampton are not yet doomed thanks to a win on Saturday that lifted Jones's team to third from



by Matt Dickinson

bottom. They had the better of what few chances there were against Sheffield Wednesday, but this was still a far from convincing win, and one fears for Southampton if Arsenal are in the mood when they visit in a fortnight. Emmanuel Petit will be missing for that one, but so too will be Matt Le Tissier, Chris Marsden and Hassan Kachoul because of suspension.

"That's my entire midfield gone," Jones said. It may cost him dear. Such is Southampton's dreadful form on their travels, where they have lost the last five games, that they cannot afford to drop any points in their last four home matches. That may prove a task beyond a rather cumbersome team.

That they managed to win on Saturday was as much to do with Wednesday's sloth as their own good form, with the Wednesday players' kit returning to Yorkshire as clean and fresh as when they first put it on. None of them appeared to break sweat.

apart from Benito Carbone, who at least managed a bit of twisting and turning, all of it in vain.

When Le Tissier headed home from close range after 42 minutes, it was presumably because Wednesday could not be bothered to mark him and Southampton could afford to waste a number of second-half chances as Egil Ostenstad headed wide twice. Le Tissier tried a couple of long-range efforts to relieve the tedium, but his radar was slightly on the blink. It was all very predictable stuff, which made Glenn Hoddle's appearance in the crowd all the more unfathomable.

"We could have made it a lot easier for ourselves with that second goal," Jones said. "We look a completely different team at home. Maybe I will have to put the players in a box before we go away from home or make them wear blinkers. I wish we could play all our games at The Dell." If the planning application which goes before the city council next week is successful, Southampton will not be playing any games there in a couple of years. At least they are enjoying it while they can.

SOUTHAMPTON (3-3-1-2): P. Jones — J. Dodd, C. Lundevik, K. Morrison, P. Collier (sub: P. Benaia, 83min) — M. Oakley (sub: J. Bonaia, 67), C. Wasth, H. Kachoul — M. Le Tissier — M. Hughes, E. Ostenstad.















GOLF

# Clarke gives his short game a long workout

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN ORLANDO

FOR THE best part of 24 hours yesterday morning, Darren Clarke practised his golf with missionary zeal at the Bay Hill Club. Appropriately enough for a Sunday, he was doing penance for his bad play earlier in the week. He had a wedge in his hands and shot after shot arced away and travelled 70 or so yards to the flag he was aiming at.

Several balls hit their target, but you would hardly have known from Clarke's demeanour. He just used the toe of a pitching wedge to roll another ball onto a patch of grass and hit that ball — and another and another.

Clarke was on the practice ground, the place the pros call "Heartbreak Hill". He was not happy about his short game in the first two rounds of the Bay Hill Invitational,

where he had missed the half-way cut, and for Clarke there was only one remedy. That was work and more work for the man who is already one of the hardest-working players in Europe. Nothing distracted him. He hardly looked up.

Even when Lee Westwood, his friend, came to practise alongside and started talking football, Clarke carried on hitting balls. When someone shouted out Ireland's score against Scotland in the Five Nations Championship rugby match the previous day, Clarke merely grunted.

Colin Montgomerie wandered over and talked football with Westwood and Billy Foster, Clarke's caddy. "I am a member of the ABU club — Anybody But United," Montgomerie said.

Soon Tim Herron and

Davis Love III would come to the driving range and rehearse the swings that enabled them to lead the tournament at 14 under par. Clarke ignored everybody. He was lost in a world of his own. Foster brought buckets after buckets of balls, 50 in each bucket, and it was well past 11am and a light rain was falling when Clarke finally stopped for a rest, having hit perhaps 450 balls. He lit a cigar, ate a cookie and drank a cup of coffee brought to him by Foster.

"If you hit it in the rough you have to be able to get it out and get it up and down," Clarke said. "Amateurs know that but it is just as true for professionals. If you practise your short game you can turn a 76 into a 72 and a 72 keeps you in a tournament while a 76 puts you out of it. At the moment my game is a long way from being right. Yesterday I went shopping. It was the first day for eight weeks I have not practised and I really enjoyed having a day off. Golf feels very difficult at the moment. It should be coming right by now, but it isn't."

"On Thursday I was doing not too badly and then took a double bogey on the 9th, my 18th. I had 126 yards to the front of the green and I hit it 125 and the ball plugged in a bunker. On the 16th on Friday I had a simple shot to the green, but I was between a wedge and a nine-iron, I misjudged it and hit into the water."

"I have to get the short clubs into action. There is nothing better if you hit it into a bush than getting the ball out, getting up and down and going to the next tee. Everybody goes through bad spells. It is time mine ended."

He blew out a cloud of smoke from his cigar he was smoking. "I'll keep going for a bit yet, head up to Jack Nicklaus for the Players Championship tonight and do more of the same there tomorrow."

Evergreen Palmer, page 34

## In-form Webb leaves rivals in the shade

BY PATRICIA DAVIES, IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

BEFORE the final round of the Standard Register Ping tournament at Moon Valley here yesterday, Karrie Webb was 79 under par for the 22 rounds of golf that she has played so far this season.

The Australian, from Ayr in Queensland, was 11 under par after 54 holes here with scores of 68, 68 and 69. She led by two shots from Lorie Kane, of Canada, and by four from Wendy Ward and Tina Barrett, both Americans.

In short, Webb, just 24, is in phenomenal form. At the Australian Masters, which she led from start to finish after an opening 62, she set a US tour record of 26 under par, which was all the more special for being at home in front of her friends and family.

So far she has won twice, been second once and — on her off weeks — slipped to seventh and eighth. She has won

nearly \$300,000 and was poised to add another \$127,500, the first prize here, to take her career earnings past the \$3 million mark in just over three seasons, a record eclipsing the five years that it took Annika Sorenstam.

The Swede, the world No 1, had a hole-in-one at the 2nd hole on Saturday but finished with a lacklustre 71 and made no impression on Webb. The Australian's technique and demeanour are so calm and unfussy that she almost compiles her scores by stealth, but her success is no surprise to her peers.

Kane watches Webb off the tee because her timing is so sweet and summed up her view: "When you have a golf swing, a game and an attitude like Karrie, you're going to have success. She's just a great athlete and a very good person, too."



Coope focuses intently on her progress during the step-climb phase of the X Zone

## Coope reaches victory zone

BY DAVID POWELL

SARAH COOPE has won six British and six European triathlon titles, finished third in the Hawaii Ironman and given birth to three children. At 34, you would have thought she might welcome a rest. No chance.

Yesterday, Coope entered new territory at the Birmingham NEC for the X Zone, a competition which the organisers said would determine Britain's fittest man and woman. If the argument over whether a ten-discipline gymnasium challenge can settle such titles remains unresolved, there was no doubting the identity of the X Zone's first champion.

Coope won hands down, on more to the point, chest out, stomach in. The section that had worried her was the rope climb, but, with a Royal Marine assigned to each finalist to marshal and motivate, she need not have felt uneasy. The rope was the seventh discipline. "Get up there. Move



it," her marine shouted at her. So she did.

Behind her was a 3,000 metres cycle, 30 push-ups, a 3,000 metres run, a set of chins, dips and bicep lifts, 2,000 metres of rowing and the tyres and beam coordination test. Ahead was a step climb, equivalent to the height of Blackpool Tower, another 5,000 metres cycle, and a shuttle run. Yet Coope would not accept that she was Britain's fittest woman. "I was the fittest person here," she said.

However, Kelly Holmes, the British 1,500 metres record-holder and a former Army physical training instructor, argued on the side of the organisers. "I really do

believe the winner deserves that title," Holmes said.

Glenn Catley, who fought for the World Boxing Council super-middleweight title last year, agreed. Hywel Davies, a teacher from Leamington, had won other similar competitions and said that it was "beyond any doubt" that he was Britain's fittest man. "It is a fair claim," Catley, who represented boxing in the inter-sport challenge, said.

Women's rowing annihilated men's teams from professional squash, rugby union and rugby league. The promoter had calculated from world records that women perform to 88 per cent of the men's standards and the disciplines were weighted accordingly to provide a level test.

The women's rowing five included Cath Bishop and Dot Blackie, runners-up in the world championships coxless pairs last year. Try telling Bishop that rowing is not Britain's fittest sport. "Everybody is telling us that and we accept it," she said.

TENNIS

## Rusedski fires effective but tame warning

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN KEY BISCAINE, FLORIDA

IT IS taking time but, slowly, Greg Rusedski is beginning to warm to life in Florida. After his less than secure opening performance at the Lipton championships, he eased into the last 16 with a simple 6-3, 6-4 win over Hendrik Dreekman, of Germany. It was not flashy, it was not impressive, but it was nice and safe and that is what the Great Britain No 2 needs at the moment. The fireworks can wait for later in the week.

Dreekman is one of those players who never really seems to get any further in the general scheme of things. Ranked No 102 in the world, that is about his level, although he does have one win over Rusedski to his name. That, however, was three years ago at the US Open and Rusedski has learnt a lot since then. Yesterday, although the first service was not particularly reliable, he managed eight aces and enough decent volleys to put Dreekman in his place. He now plays either Nicolas Kiefer or Pat Rafter for a place in the last eight.

After two years in semi-retirement and a history of aches, pains and maladies that has caused him to miss more tournaments than he has played, Boris Becker has decided to start his Wimbledon preparations early. Although he said, in 1997, that he would not play another grand slam event, the smell of the grass has whetted Becker's appetite for one last crack at SW19 and the hard work starts now — or rather, it did. On Saturday night, the old boy was upstaged 7-5, 6-0 by Marat Safin, one of the new pretenders to his crown.

Everything was going well for the first half an hour before Becker dropped his service. From keeping pace with the young gun, Becker lost his rhythm and did not win another game. "I think it's down to not playing any matches in the last couple of months," Becker said. That is a situation he intends to rectify before he bids farewell to the All England Club. "It all

depends on being able to play a couple of tournaments — singles and doubles — each week to improve," he said. "The key for me is to stay injury-free and play the next two or three months in a row."

It will take rather more than a few extra tournaments to prepare Carlos Moya for the vagaries of grass court tennis — at the moment, any form of the game is causing him problems as he comes to terms with his elevated status to world No 1. Still, he is an awfully popular player and, yesterday, even the umpire was willing to help him in his third-round encounter with Jason Stoltenberg.

A break up in the third set, Moya lost his lead and was rather fortunate to get it back a couple of games later, with the most dubious of over-rules, to sneak into the next round.

## Agassi vows never to play for US again

HE MAY not be a part of the team, he may not even be a part of the tournament any more, but you just cannot keep Andre Agassi down (Alix Ramsay writes).

Along with Pete Sampras, he has long since ruled himself out of contention for the Davis Cup tie in Birmingham, but on Saturday he was determined to have his say. Getting stuck into a row with the United States Tennis Association (USTA), he has vowed never to play for his country again.

The USTA dispensed with George Fared, the Davis Cup team doctor, and Agassi is furious. "George goes to the wall for you during Davis Cup weeks, the players loved him, appreciated him," Agassi said. "It's just another example of how the players aren't consulted about anything that happens. I never say never, but I'm never playing again."

### EQUESTRIANISM: GERMAN RIDER QUALIFIES FOR WORLD CUP IN TENSE FINALE

## Speedy Nieberg has the final say

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN S-HIERIGENBOSCH

to the combination, the final fence. Geoff Billington, one of the two Britons in the class, faulted at both fences on Virtual Village It's Out. "I thought when I walked the course he'd cope with it easily," Billington said. "If I had to do it again I'd try to put an extra stride in before the combination."

John Whitaker, the other Briton, did exactly that on Vir-

tual Village Heyman, but to his frustration, he had incurred four faults at fence 8, a triple bar. "It was probably the easiest fence on the course," Whitaker said. Fortunately, he already has enough points to secure his place in the final, though Billington, who is placed fifteenth in the European League, from which the top 19 qualify, needs a few

more points at one of the last two qualifying rounds to make certain of his place.

In the jump-off, Coyle had the disadvantage of going first. Neatly over the first two fences, he tried to save time with an acute turn into fence 3A, a set of upright planks, but Cruising slipped to a halt in front of the fence, incurring three faults.

Hendrix, seeking his first win in a qualifier, made no mistake on Finesse and had the packed Brabantelle thumping the floor with approval as he clocked a clear round in 31.60sec. When Charles hit fence 4 there was a sigh of relief from the crowd, but their euphoria was short-lived. Nieberg, the last to go, sped round in breathtaking style to finish in 30.69.

Results, page 39

## Rider's case to be heard

POLLY PHILLIPS, the British three-day-event rider whose horse Coral Cove tested positive for a banned substance after the world championships in Rome in October, will have her case heard by the judicial committee of the International Equestrian Federation on April 29. If Phillips's breach of medication control is upheld, Britain will lose the team bronze medal she won at the championships and her qualification for the Sydney Olympic Games, although there is a last chance to qualify for the Games at the European championships in September.

BASKETBALL

## Sharks edge towards title

SHEFFIELD SHARKS are now overwhelming favourites to win the Budweiser League after following up the 111-109 double overtime win over Manchester Giants on Friday with an 82-70 victory over Leicester Riders on Saturday (Nicholas Hurling writes).

Their satisfaction was complete with the news that Todd Cauthorn had escaped a nasty fall against Leicester with nothing worse than severe bruising to his knee, and that their closest rivals, the Manchester Giants, had lost 66-64 at home to London Towers.

"It has been a very good weekend for us," Chris Finch, the Sharks coach, said. "The players were tired after the game against Manchester, but somehow they found it within themselves to produce again."

Without Cauthorn, their 6ft 8in forward, the Sharks struggled. "It was not the prettiest of affairs," Finch said, after seeing his team trail 48-47, but Travis Conlan led the Sharks home with 19 points, followed by Ian McKinney with 16 and Wil Johnson with 15.

## SPORT IN BRIEF

**MOTOR RALLYING:** Colin McRae started the fourth round of the world rally championship in Oporto yesterday with a 50kg weight penalty, which could lose him a quarter of a second a kilometre on the 400-kilometre Rally of Portugal. His Ford Focus has had 15kg shaved off since its last outing in Europe in February, but it will not be until the Rally of New Zealand in July that the car will be at fighting weight. McRae yesterday set the fastest time on the opening 3.2-kilometre spectator stage near Oporto.

**ROWING:** In weekend races on the Tideway, Oxford met Queen's Tower, a crew with seven Great Britain internationals on board. In a race from Putney to Chiswick Steps, Oxford won by two thirds of a length. Cambridge faced an Austrian crew that included five internationals and won a race that had to be restarted by four lengths.

**BOWLS:** Mark Royal, 24, from Stowmarket survived three close matches to win the Warner Holidays All England Champion of Champions indoor title at Gunton Hall Village, Lowestoft last night. Royal overcame Robert Newman, of Reading, 21-19 in the final.

**GOLF:** A spirited rally by Cambridge in the second-day singles could not prevent Oxford from retaining the title by a margin of 49-94 in the University Match at Royal Cinque Ports, Kent. Ben Keogh, the Oxford captain, shared, with Dave Selchen, the biggest foursome win, 11 and 9.

**FOOTBALL:** Doncaster Belles will meet Arsenal, the holders, in the semi-finals of the FA Women's Cup after defeating Croydon 2-0 at Arnhorpe Welfare yesterday. Two early first-half goals from Vicky Edey and Karen Walker, the England internationals, killed off a spirited Croydon challenge.

**CYCLING:** Andrei Tchmil, of Belgium, survived an early visit by the International Cycling Union's drug testers to win the opening Milan San Remo, the opening round of the 1999 World Cup series on Saturday. Tchmil was one of 32 riders to be blood-tested by the UCI medical inspectors at Sam.

CRICKET

## Four wickets for Elworthy

STEVE ELWORTHY'S second four-wicket haul of the match helped take South Africa to the verge of victory at the end of the fourth day's play in the third Test against New Zealand at Wellington yesterday.

Needing 276 runs to make South Africa bat again, the home side finished the day on 217 for seven wickets, still 59 runs in arrears. After Hansie Cronje, the South African captain, had declared at the overnight score of 498 for eight, New Zealand soon lost the wickets of Bryan Young, Roger Twose and Matt Horne.

Nathan Aspinall and Gary Stead revived the innings with a partnership of 65 until Elworthy trapped Stead for 33. Aspinall, who was dropped three times, also fell to the same bowler for 62 as Elworthy finished with 4-58 from 22 overs. Paul Adams, the wrist spinner, bowled Chris Harris for 41 shortly before the close while Adam Parore's innings ended with a spectacular, one-handed catch by Jonny Rhodes.

Scoreboard, page 39

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# Catt falls short by getting his attacking lines crossed

**MICHAEL LYNAGH**



The defensive coaching is undoubtedly working: what England need now is an offensive coach. Their inability to transfer the dominance they have enjoyed over the past two games against France and Ireland into points, especially tries, must be of serious concern to Clive Woodward and his team.

That said, it must be comforting trying to solve this mystery having won games rather than trying to rise above the pack after defeats. England, as they had done against Ireland, always looked like they were going to win against France. Had they taken only half of the opportunities on offer, it could have been a 20 to 30-point victory. You don't get many opportunities in international rugby and when the chance comes, it must be seized on immediately with venom.

The English pack strangled the life out of their French opponents. They then set about trying to ruin little Thomas Castaignède's afternoon by running at him, involving him in a defensive role in the process, detracting from his obvious attacking skills. For a little guy, his courage in the tackle embarrassed some of his bigger and supposedly more physical team-mates.

What are the problems for England? Why can't they put the opposition away? The approach work was good, but seemed to fade away to nothing as the tryline approached. Had Mike Catt scored just before half-time, it may have been a different story. It would have made the score 16-0 and the floodgates may have opened after the interval as the French spirit would have been broken.

When there is a three-man overlap, ten metres out, it is a simple case of you must score. Catt, who had a reasonable game and mixed his options well, putting in some nice, probing kicks, has one serious flaw in his fly-half play. He crabs across field when delivering the ball to his backs.

**'When the chance comes, it must be seized on immediately with venom'**

This has the effect of crowding the players outside him and sending the defence directly with the ball to the intended receiver. By doing this, the defence is not fixed and the angle he creates does not give the receiver many options other than to take the tackle or continue

to him. Until this is done, the backs will not function to their potential. Ironically, Catt is at his best when he is running at the opposition, especially from the lineout; he just needs to make a similar line and pass at the same time.

Interestingly, two of the three

times England crossed the France tryline came from kicks. The French, who had two opportunities to score points the whole afternoon, such as England's defensive dominance, took one of these and it also came from a kick.

France seem to have a strange preoccupation with the blind side. My little friend, Philippe Carboneau, was at times trying to fit what seemed like half the team down a postage stamp-size short side. This played into the English hands. They could commit one or two players to the tackle, while the rest lined out across the field.

I would like to see some statistics on how many onesides that kick to touch from penalties, in lieu of shooting for goal, get the ball across the tryline. This would be another job for the England offensive coach. He needs to come up with

plays that would increase the chances of scoring from these decisions. England on occasions made the correct decision to try for extra points, yet failed to convert. They need to come up with options other than just pushing really hard.

It was a strange afternoon, one that promised so much yet by the end had delivered precious little that we did not already know. The French team were subdued, Martin Johnson was on his best behaviour and the biggest tactical substitution was that of the referee. The crowd laboured to achieve any sort of atmosphere in a sterile Twickenham. Maybe if England could have got across the tryline a few times, the feeling would have been different. Get the attack coach in there quickly; the engine is there, but the bodywork needs some heavy panel-beating to knock it into shape.

## Five Nations Championship: France kicked into submission



Wilkinson is brought down by Carboneau but the centre's impeccable goalkicking gave England an iron grip on the match at Twickenham

IT WOULD be easy to write off Saturday at Twickenham as another somewhat tedious day at the England office. When all was over, there was little sense of excitement or tip-lapping expectation at the prospect of a twelfth grand slam being filed away in the cabinet if Wales are overcome at Wembley on the final weekend of the Five Nations Championship, or of significant progress having been achieved since the championship opened.

Players and management quipped up to reveal that the atmosphere in the changing-room was as flat as a pancake, that they were as frustrated as the crowd that so many characterised had been jettisoned. But it is important to place this match, and Clive Woodward's regime, in context. For four years France have been a significant, indeed unbeatable, hurdle, so there was pleasure to be derived from victory against a strangely quiescent opponent.

More to the point is the roller-coaster existence since Woodward became England coach: the heavy-duty against the southern-hemisphere powers, the sweeping changes in personnel and attitude, the mistakes made by a raw management team against a backdrop of turbulence in the English game. Supporters have cried out for stability in England and, in one area at least, it has been achieved: the national team has won six out of seven games this season and the defeat was by a single point.

This is not the most exciting, the most glamorous of interna-

## England possess powers that be

tional team, nor will it be by the time the World Cup comes around this autumn, but glamour has never been an English characteristic. Instead, there is a settled dimension to England, a sense of the game they are trying to play, that waits tantalisingly before us and then drifts away and leaves only the pragmatism of seven well-struck penalty goals by Jonathan Wilkinson.

"We know there is room for improvement," we created chances that we totally bombed," Woodward said. "But this job is about winning." Not about style or performance? Not any more, apparently, which means that England have cottoned on to international reality. Not that Woodward has trimmed his ambitions for his side — "We have to create a style where people playing against us don't know what to expect," he said — but he knows there is a prerequisite.

Whether he has time and games enough to build on that primary level may depend on whether Will Greenwood, the injured Leicester centre, can be restored to health and what then happens to Wilkinson. Woodward values the teenage-



By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

er's play at centre, never mind the nerveless goalkicking that allowed him to equal the record of Simon Hodgkinson (1991) and Rob Andrew, his mentor (1995), of seven penalties in a match.

Geoff Cooke, the former England manager, said on Saturday that the World Cup was not within reach while Mike Catt remains at fly-half. Against France in the Lloyd's TSB championship, Catt's ledger was about 50-50, which is not high enough for an international pivot. He might have scored two tries but he came away with none as England opened up a side whose concentration on defence was so entire that they seemed to lose their way in attack.

The same was true for Jeremy Guscott, who remains a

classic centre but misses that vital half-yard in speed. As the interval neared, with England leading 9-0, it seemed almost impossible that England could not score a try, first when Hill charged down Philippe Carboneau's clearance, only to cannon into a colleague with a way to the line clear, then when Catt had a three-one overlap outside him and stumbled in going for the line.

The nature of the game might have changed at that stage, but it did not. So the afternoon demonstrated that England lack overall pace and the ability to make the killing pass, that they should rethink the fashionable kick to the corner for a close-range lineout, but that they have a proven goalkicker, muscular forwards and a defence out of the top drawer.

The first two, you might argue, England have invariably possessed, so what else is new? There is a variety to their game, the mixture of kicks, the willingness to handle that was let down by the inaccuracy of their work at close quarters. Woodward's game requires, above all, precision and on Saturday it was absent, but the overall approach contrasted

with that of France: the player running their show was not the elusive, adventurous Thomas Castaignède but Carboneau, his half-back partner.

That show, time and again, took France down the narrow side, where they produced some miraculous passing but became too predictable. It was as though the millimetre miss by Xavier Garbajosa midway through the first half had convinced them it was the way to go: a flicker of four passes behind a scrum within a confined space gave Garbajosa sight of the corner and he beat Catt's tackle, but Matt Perry pushed his feet into touch as he plunged for the touchdown.

Nor was there any hint of French restlessness as penalties rained down on them at the ratio of two to one. "We made too many mistakes, lost too much ball," Raphael Ibanez, the captain, said. It was as though France had listened too hard to their coaches telling them that the World Cup was what mattered, just as England, by their own account, had too much respect for what was, on the day, a modest France XV.

The game's one try came when it made no difference. Carboneau kicked into mid-field, where Perry should have committed himself to the catch. He hesitated, the bounce of the ball deceived him, and France's Cornha stretched the score that did not even amount to consolation. It did serve to annoy England still further and will ensure that the dead hand they lay upon Wales next month will be all the harsher.

## Woodward keeps his Sir Galahad in check

**Julian Muscat on the tactics used by the England coach**

I f not exactly blinking under the headlights, Jonny Wilkinson emerged from England's obdurate triumph as something of a reluctant hero. The laurels rested squarely on his teenage shoulders after seven successful penalties had dispatched the Twickenham faithful with another victory for substance over style.

Wilkinson's metronomic accuracy had endorsed the plaudits, many from esteemed sources, identifying him as a baccaneer of infinite promise. Yet the man himself said only that he was "flattered and honoured" to be firmly ensconced within the England fold. As with his performance on the field, Wilkinson's post-match thoughts accompanied the team ethic. He was determined to deflect the stellar status accorded those with the golden boot. All of which has the makings of an uncomfortable mousetrap for Clive Woodward, the England coach, as his juggernaut rumbles towards the grand slam, and beyond that, the World Cup in the autumn.

Wilkinson is hogging the plaudits while playing out of position. He is apparently a fly-half in centre's clothing. The clamour for him to assume his inheritance grows louder by the match. Woodcock betide Woodward if any perceived weakness at fly-half is held responsible for a sub-par showing in the World Cup. In that event, his reluctance to promote Wilkinson may see the trap shut firmly across his neck.

Yet Woodward's thinking is clear. "Goalkicking aside, Jonny is definitely one of our very best players," he said in assessment of Wilkinson. "He is playing way above what I expected from a 19-year-old. When Phil de Glanville and Will Greenwood [England's

injured centres] get fit, they will have a real job to dislodge him." When tributes to his composure and commitment are added to the mix, Wilkinson quickly assumes the profile of a latter-day Sir Galahad, riding the sweet chariot to fame and riches. Yet while his promise is immense, it is unsettling to see him fêted at this embryonic stage.

One potential demon was unwittingly loosened by Dave Alred, England's kicking coach, who asserted that Wilkinson's first two penalties were far from cleanly struck. The two efforts established a 6-0 platform inside five minutes. Had they drifted wide, Wilkinson's confidence may have suffered. The goalkicker's margins are thus too fine to invest certainty within them — even for a man who has missed just one kick in his three Five Nations Championship matches to date.

Given the adjustments Wilkinson will one day have

to make to accommodate the switch to fly-half, and given the absence of time before the World Cup, Woodward plainly proposes to deploy Wilkinson at inside centre. In that position Wilkinson can ride the learning curve with protection from the noose of overexposure.

One facet of a disappointing match was that the Wilkinson-Guscott axis largely failed to trouble the French midfield. Quite how this will translate to the pair coping with their increasingly leviathan southern hemisphere counterparts must be a source of concern.

Woodward is quick to dismiss any prompt about the World Cup. His sights, and those of the team, are forcefully trained on the grand slam encounter with Wales, yet England's reluctance to embrace a more expansive game appears increasingly ominous. In driving for small gains around mauls, England's rumbustious forwards derive the pleasure of an imprisoned thief chalking up another day of time served.

Invention has been ditched in the interests of a pack superiority that cannot be expected to overwhelm the southern hemisphere giants. Even Woodward acknowledged the point when he said: "We have to create a style where teams playing against us don't know what is going to happen. If they do, we will always be second best."

It was a curious observation from a man whose hand appears very firmly on the tiller, for England's predictability has sufficed against Ireland and France. It will surely not suffice in the World Cup, yet to introduce invention at the conclusion of the Five Nations would match the folly of switching Wilkinson to fly-half at this late stage.



Woodward: style



WEEKS TO GO.

GOOD THINGS COME TO THOSE WHO...WAIT.

**GUINNESS**

OFFICIAL BEVERAGE OF RUGBY WORLD CUP 1999



Guscott attempts to hand off a strong French challenge

**HOW THEY STAND**

	P	W	D	L	F	Pts
England	3	3	0	0	72	46
Scotland	3	2	0	1	94	57
France	3	1	0	2	53	64
Wales	3	1	0	2	77	65
Ireland	4	1	1	2	39	60

**RESULTS**

Wales 22 Ireland 22  
France 22 Wales 24  
New Zealand 21 France 10  
Scotland 30 Ireland 13

**FIXTURES**

Apr 10: France v Scotland, Paris  
Apr 11: Wales v England, Wrexham

FIRST HALF		SECOND HALF	
Minute	Score	Minute	Score
3	Penalty goal: Wilkinson 3-0	42	Pen: Castaignède 3-3
5	Pen: Wilkinson 6-0	45	Pen: Wilkinson 3-6
15	Pen: Wilkinson 9-0	64	Pen: Wilkinson 3-9
		68	Pen: Wilkinson 3-12
		72	Pen: Wilkinson 3-15
		83	Try: Cornha 3-18

**GOALKEEPERS:**  
England: Penalty goals: Wilkinson 7  
France: Try: Cornha Conversion: Castaignède, Penalty goals: Castaignède

**ENGLAND:** M S Perry (Capt), D L Rice (Capt), N D Beal, Northampton, 65min, J P Wilkinson (Newcastle), J C Guscott (Bath), D O Luger (Harlequins), M J Carr (Bath), K P P Brecken (Saracens), M J S Dawson, Northampton, 35; J Leaver (Cardiff), R Cockell (Leicester), O J Garthorpe (Leicester), V E Ugoa (Bath), T M O Johnson (Leicester), I A N Rother (Northampton), A M A Hill (Leicester), E C Carty, Leicester, 50, N A Back (Leicester), L B N Dallaglio (Wales, captain)

**FRANCE:** E Ntamack (Toulouse), X Garbajosa (Toulouse), P Gironi (Dax), F Cornha (Stade Français), C Doménil (Stade Français), T Castaignède (Castres), P Carboneau (Stade Français), S Marconnet (Stade Français), rep: C Dallier (Toulouse), 46; R Ibanez (Perpignan, captain), F Tournie (Toulouse), O Brunet (Stade Français), F Pélissier (Toulouse), rep: D Auradou, Stade Français, 66; T Llavemont (Perpignan), rep: M Raymond, Narbonne, 66; R Castel (Bordeaux), C Julliet (Stade Français)

Referee: C J Hawke (New Zealand); rep: J M Fleming, Scotland, 39



## MONDAY MATTERS

# Wanted: young exec to kick-start football

For all the vast wages that will be put on offer — and you can start the guessing conservatively, at £250,000 a year — there appears as much allure in the vacancies for chief executive of both the Football Association and Premier League as there is in becoming a bin-man. Either way, it is a lot of dirty work.

Literally, it appears, in the case of the Premier League, where the commercial director has allegedly been filling 30 rubbish bags with shredded documents. So that is what is meant by cleaning up the game. While the FA and Premier League search the boardrooms of Britain for their next leaders, the average football fan could scarcely care less. He knows the FA chief executive only as the man who pulls the cup balls from the bag and who stands on the steps of Lancaster Gate every time an England coach has just been hired or fired. He would not recognise the Premier League chief executive if he strode naked across Wembley.

## Matt Dickinson on the importance of finding the right men to fill the vacancies at the Football Association and the Premier League

the FA Cup, are under threat, diminished in its prestige by the year as the football calendar becomes increasingly cluttered.

Turning on a television to watch free football can not, for much longer, be regarded as a birthright with BSkyB continuing their experiments with pay-per-view. The Worthington Cup will almost certainly become extinct if, as expected, the competition loses its qualification place for Europe, and there will be more high-profile casualties

in the stampede for greater riches. The game needs strong, responsible leaders and the shared fate of Graham Kelly and Keith Wiseman, sacked as chief executive and chairman of the FA, and Peter Leaver and Sir John Quinton, removed from office at the Premier League, would suggest that we have not found them yet. The growing fear now is that they will never be uncovered unless the two organisations themselves undergo radical reform.

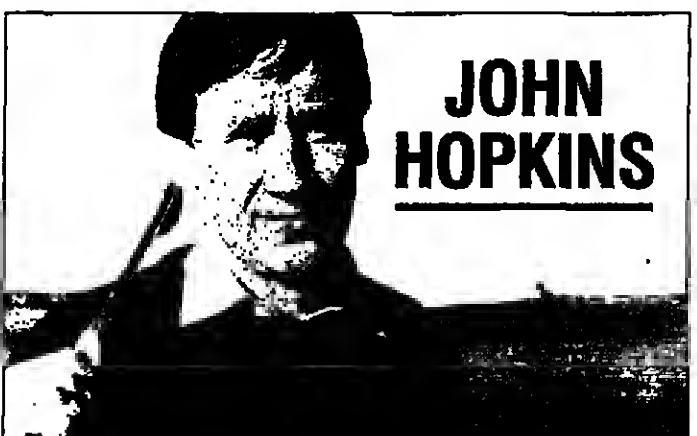
Would, for example, an ambitious young administrator want to rush to Lancaster Gate, where his plans are at the mercy of a council of 91 septuagenarians and committee reports arrive covered in cobwebs? High-placed officials at the FA talk grand plans for modernisation, but there are no signs yet.

Some want the Premiership reduced to 18 clubs, most prefer it to stay as it is. They are pulling in different directions, and the only thing many have in common is a love of money. Of course, there will be people who will think they can handle a chief executive's job, and there are able candidates for both. While some will always refuse to forgive him for his ghostwriting of Glenn Hoddle's vacuous *World Cup Diary*, David Davies, in his role as executive director at Lancaster Gate, has already

made positive changes to improve the labyrinthine workings there. Richard Scudamore has impressed many as chief executive of the Football League. The likes of Andrew Crocker, head of football at IMG, Martin Prothero, marketing director of Umbro, and Nite Coward, company secretary at the FA, are bright, young-ish things with the good of the game at heart. None, though, are perfect, which is what both jobs seem to require. Not only must the chief executives have brilliant legal, commercial and public relation minds, but be visionaries as well. The FA chief executive must be able to safeguard the grass roots of football while trying to keep

He receives the greetings of players as a king at court, which, I suppose, is just what he is

## Evergreen Palmer retains all his zest



JOHN HOPKINS

More than 40 years ago a young golfer forced himself into the American consciousness with the shattering power of one of his own drives. With a thrilling style of play, a wink, and a hitch of his trousers, Arnold Palmer took the first steps that led to his present status as one of the most revered men in the United States. One of the great sporting icons of the second half of the century.

Palmer was at it again in Florida last week. The man who has won seven significant professional championships was broader in the beam, slower of gait, but still winking, laughing, sighing and wearing his heart on his sleeve. Palmer charmed golf once more while acting as host of a tournament at his club and launching an enchanting book about himself.

Palmer is folksy, a crafted piece of work that worms its way into your heart as quickly and convincingly as the author himself. Now Palmer has made his way into the locker room at Bay Hill, after a round in the company of Severiano Ballesteros and Bob Friend. "Give me a beer," he has just roared, needing some solace to ease his unhappiness after a 78, still unwilling to accept that such a score was far from a disgrace for a man who will be 70 in November. It was in this calm locker room, that Palmer aired his views on some of today's issues in golf.

On Tiger Woods: "I think that from all the time and slugging the club down doesn't do anything for his game. He's got the world in his hands. All he has to do is to enjoy it and laugh."

On his father: "Pap [Deacon, Palmer's father] had a thing about living and having good manners. It was just the proper thing in my family and I suppose it was the tradition my father thought very strongly about, whether it means making your hat off inside or particularly at a dinner table with ladies."

It was a feish with him. It was more than a feish. It was a positive to take your hat off and it was a positive that you learnt how to use a knife and fork and how to talk to people. Manners and etiquette and proper conduct are a part of what makes a nation such as ours strong and solid. If you lose that, or if it goes away, then you weaken the very nucleus of the country and the people."

On money in team events: "To make winning money a feature of the Ryder or Presidents Cup would be very bad. I think you see the spirit in which the guys play the game without money and I think that's important. If you have to instil that spirit by putting up money, then I think it's bad."

On his father: "Pap was a muscular, mentally tough guy and I loved that. He never backed off anything from the time I was a little fellow. Boy was he strong. He could do ten pull-ups with his left arm and then ten with his right. He was never more than 180lb and I saw him wrestle two 200lb men and pin them to the ground, one in each arm."



Palmer, still capable of very smart form even though he is approaching 70 years of age, believes Woods would be a better player if he learnt to enjoy it more



Palmer and Ballesteros study the tee-shot of an opponent during the Bay Hill Invitational in Florida last week

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

## SPORTS LETTERS

E-mail, including a postal address and daytime telephone number, should be sent to: sport.letters@the-times.co.uk

### Birmingham City defence

From Mr Gary Loveridge Sir, Michael Henderson (report, March 15) seems to argue that because Birmingham City have a less-than-illustrious history, at least in terms of winning trophies, that their supporters are not entitled to feel and display pride in their team.

Francis has built, without a "bobby-dazzler" in sight, destroy our allegedly "famous" local neighbours — the highest league gate for 11 years. The ground redevelopment is 75 per cent completed, and already provides a marvelous, atmospheric environment from which to watch football. When complete, it will be a superb 40,000-seat stadium, fit for premier league football.

### Will the Lord's pavilion be overrun by women?

From Mr Matthew J Howard Sir, in response to Michael Henderson's article (Long Room witnesses end of long march, March 17), I feel it necessary to counter the argument put forward that "Lord's will not suddenly be swamped by women bursting into the Long Room."

As the rules stand, the only days that the pavilion will be almost exclusively populated by men will be Test match days, the one-day finals and the forthcoming World Cup, these being days when only

full members of MCC are allowed in the pavilion. On all other days during the season, however, not only will female guests of the 18,000 members of MCC be allowed to be introduced to the pavilion, but those also having access to the pavilion as of right will include female members of Middlesex, the female guests of male Middlesex men and the female members of those teams visiting Lord's.

In much the same way as Sebastian Flyne has cause to observe, in *Brideshead* Revisited, of Hertford College in the 1920s that the college was "positively polluting with women" during Eights Week, only time will tell if the same effect is observed within the august portals of the pavilion at Lord's, and whether or not this will be a good thing. Old Father Time, for one, I am sure, will notice the difference. Yours faithfully, MATTHEW J HOWARD, 230 Gladback Way, Enfield, Middlesex EN2 7HS.

West Indies woes From Mr Charles Halliday Sir, Pat Gibson writes (March 13) about the "malicious gossip" which is rife amid the inter-island rivalry when suggesting that Lara may be succeeded as captain of the West Indies by Chandrapaul.

There is a certain poignancy in this report, since it was on this day in 1967 that Sir Frank Worrell died in Jamaica. I have read just reread his obituary (written in Wisden by Sir

Lealie Constantine). Underlining Worrell's genius as a manager, Constantine says she "tended the cliques and rivalries between players of various islands to weld together a team which in the space of five years became the champions of the world". I wonder if anyone can do it again? Yours faithfully, CHARLES HALLIDAY, 12 Townsend Park, Lutton, Leominster, Hertfordshire HR6 0DZ.

### White cards

From Mr Harry Pounder Sir, Until recently believed I had a good working knowledge of the laws of rugby but I am confused over a definition of when an infringement constitutes a white card from the referee.

The reason for my consternation was watching the enthralling and highly competitive Northampton v Leicester match on March 14. Two very similar incidents happened within minutes of each other. In each case a defender, under pressure, deliberately positioned himself to prevent release of a ball that would be very dangerous for his side. In each case an attacking player took exception to this action, and took the law into his own hands. In each case the referee showed a white card. Unfortunately for my reasoning process,

in the first case to the defender and in the second to the attacker. In the first incident the defender was probably more cynical, but the attacker was also more vigorous, so the balance remained the same.

There has to be a logical reason for the referee's action, but as yet it eludes me. Yours faithfully, HARRY POUNDER, 8 The Oaklands, Droitwich, Worcs WR9 8AD.

Wet Widnes From Mr Robert P. Conroy Sir, Lynne Truss's assertion that she "wouldn't like to be in Widnes on a wet Wednesday" (March 12) is erroneous. She wouldn't like to be there any day of the week, wet or basing in glorious sunshine. Yours faithfully, MR R CONROY, 17 Capesborne Close, Foxley Heath, Widnes, Cheshire WA8 7BY.



# LYNNE TRUSS



**S**o we were warned before the start of the Worthington Cup final that at Wembley Stadium they have something they call the domino effect. "If you stand up, everyone has to stand up behind you. It's a feature of this stadium, known as the domino effect."

Well apart from it being a feature of every other stadium in the world, it was worth pondering that warning as this hard-fought, teeth-grinding match unravelled over what felt like the next 17 hours.

Not because you ever wanted to stand up to get a better look, because you didn't, but because down on the pitch, the majority of the action was barging and shoving. ("They're going down like lambs, you know, nincompoops," we said) and in the stands, furiously enough, if you looked around, there were loads of people playing dominoes.

Really, it's a good game, dominoes, if played with the right level of concentration. And for the lengthy period between kick-off and the skin-of-the-teeth last-minute goal, the joy of drawing the double five must have been considerable. When the announcer warned us at half-time that anyone turning on the pitch was liable to be arrested, I was not alone in waving a hand at the 22 licensed players and muttering: "Well, this ought to be, surely."

I fall for it every time, the thrill of the Wembley final. I ought to know better. But you couldn't fault the atmosphere. Leicester fans brought blue and white balloons in their thousands; Tottenham fans brought rather less festive flags (they remembered balloons when it was too late, perhaps), but waved them enthusiastically.

**T**he roar was enormous as the teams emerged from the tunnel and the flares filled the air with smoke and sparks. So had the event been brought to an abrupt close just round kick-off, say 3.05pm, we could all report we had a marvelous time. There was the initial excitement of seeing the candy-stripe outfit of the Tottenham goalkeeper, Ian Walker, which was a brave choice on his part. I thought, when the poor chap is trying so hard to throw off his image as a human barber's pole.

And there was the never-diminishing thrill of seeing the knees of David Ginola in the flesh. If only the crowd hadn't expected a display of superior (vertical) footballing skills, to test the abilities of two noble goalkeepers. That was where the trouble was. The expectation of the vertical. So we can blame ourselves, as usual.

When matches are as disappointing as this, you can do one of two things. Either you try to penetrate

the mystery of 22 energetic and committed chaps unable to make an attractive flow of play, despite the occasion; or you can decide to locate an obscure bright side to the festering muck.

I opted for the latter, and decided that actually, after all the hoo-ha over Holyfield-Lewis, here was at least a knockdown rate that ought to satisfy half-blind boxing judges the world over. Looked at from this perspective, this Worthington Cup final was actually a superb match.

Calculating it roughly, there were 312 separate knockdown incidents, with often one knockdown leading to another knockdown, and finally to fisticuffs. The shove rate was phenomenal, matched only by the push rate and the crashing-down-on-top-of rate.

Moreover, what admirable symmetry. For Sol Campbell would take down Emile Heskey, who in turn would trip Ramon Vega, who

would jump up and push somebody else, and so on until it came back round to Campbell, who said "How did that happen?" At which point it would start all over again.

Naturally enough, this tendency had a knock-on effect of its own, when in the 63rd minute, Justin Edinburgh was sent off for striking Robbie Savage. I was so glad I had adopted the boxing perspective from fairly early on. It was a sort of right hook, to which Savage reacted like a woman struck in a pub at chucking-out time.

Of course, Savage had just barged into Edinburgh at full tilt, and Edinburgh had perhaps eaten enough grass for one afternoon, because the poor sap snapped. And after the dismissal of Edinburgh and the yellow card for Savage, the

knock-on effect was that Savage was clattered whenever he came near the ball, once with the full weight of Les Ferdinand dropping on him from a flying leap, which must be like having a safe fall on top of you as you walk past the entrance to the Post Office Tower.

Why none of this was really the least bit entertaining I can't explain. But around me, people were

almost in tears as the game failed to deliver a drama more sophisticated than a brawl. "Biff!" and "Pow!" have their place in sport, of course, but I was looking forward to "Ooh" and "Ah" and the fairy feet of Ginola dancing goalwards, or even the fairy feet of Heskey, if absolutely necessary.

But football is often about man-marking and man-felling and seemingly both teams came out with identical game-plans, which amounted to a combination of "Get 'em boys" and "Aw, ref, he started it". The last-minute goal was wonderful for Tottenham, but it was also a heaven-sent relief for the rest of us. An additional half-hour and we'd have had to set fire to our hair just to restore sensation.

When it came — the goal — I had none of my usual problems seeing it happen too fast. Rather the goal unfolded in marvellous slow motion, with Ferdinand flipping the ball out right to Iversen,

who streaked goalwards, crossed well into the goalmouth, finding Nielsen, who headed it down and scored. "I knew that would happen," I said, happily. As a sort of reward for waiting 36 hours, it was more than adequate. And the joy of "Glory, Glory, Tottenham Hotspur" was so unjudgmental, you had to be impressed. Whatever the performance, it was a victory.

Before the match, the announcer invited us to applaud four Leicester fans who had, in aid of charity, walked from Hilbert Street to Wembley, a total of 105 miles. Unsurprisingly, those four plucky walkers kept coming to mind during this match, because walking across the street to see it would be considered by most rational people to be a stretch too far.

I just hope they didn't have to walk all the way back as well. The knock-on effect on those four noble souls might have been more than human stamina could bear.



Close contact: Matt Elliott, of Leicester City (left), fends off the attentions of Les Ferdinand, the Tottenham striker, during a physical afternoon at Wembley yesterday. Photograph: Clive Mason/Allsport

## Caught out by envious glances

**I**t is a little-known fact that towards the end of his life the gritty Scottish Nobel Prize-winning writer, Al McMononey, was asked to present a BBC documentary called *Novelist Millionaires*.

The idea of this film was simple. The respected author of such classic realist texts as *The Siege of Liverpool* (1986) would visit today's Young Turks in their multi-bedroomed homes, analyse the astonishing change in the world of publishing that had occurred in his lifetime and, just for the sake of comparison, occasionally mention that for his own books he had frequently received advances

it. It's just that... At which point he would throw back his head and howl in anguish: "Why him? Why this spotty youth and not me?"

Everyone was embarrassed. The BBC had intended to make either a rather sensible, discursive documentary about the rocketing of market rates, or instead a crowd-pleasing exposé of how the crazy young novelists were spending their six-figure royalty advances on drugs and new teeth, and sluttish wives in leopardskin.

McMononey, however, simply was not interested in such things. He was a slave to envy. "In my day," he berated one of the Turks, "I'd get 90 quid for a review in *The Listener*, and if I wrote for *Tribune*, it was unpaid."

The Turk, shrugging, pushed his long blond fringe aside, and offered to demonstrate for the camera how he could write a well-paid col-



umn for a national newspaper by letting the cat stroll seven times across the keyboard. It was the beginning of the end for McMononey, although he could not see it. "Paniers! I love it," he bluffed, when he saw the completed film. "All this envy stuff is only a joke, for heaven's sake. I got unbelievable access to those lads and do

you not see how I put them at their ease asking them if they could spare a few bob?" "When I kept saying 'I can do that, guss job', anyone could see it was ironic. I was sending up small-minded macho-competitive behaviour. I mean, good God, am I the only one around here with a sense of humour?"

So *Novelist Millionaires* was never screened, and the Turks were left in peace once more. Unbelievable access turned out to be pretty painless as far as they were concerned, since they had been required to reveal nothing whatever about themselves; in fact, their principal role in the film was to giggle nervously at McMononey as he tortured himself on camera.

"Who was that?" they asked each other afterwards. And then they all shrugged and wiped the hair out of their eyes and said: "Money mad, if you ask me."

## Wall-to-wall Eubanks

**A**stonishing story in the Brighton paper this week. Remember the miraculous cinnamon bun discovered in America that looked exactly like Mother Teresa?

Well, experts have been baffled again, this time by a damp patch in the flat of a woman called Miranda in Hove. "I've got Chris Eubank coming through my wall" was the headline in the *Argus*, sub-headed "Damp patch at flat reveals the face of ex-boxing champ." The funny thing was, I was getting ready to apologise to Eubank for implying he was a bit pushy. "Honestly, he gets everywhere," I kept saying in New York during the build-up to Holyfield-Lewis. But how right can you be?

It turns out that Eubank is indeed so omnipresent that he's capable of materialising in wet plaster. The damp patch does not yet sport a monocle, but obviously it's just a matter of time.

Poor Miranda. She is not a sports fan, despite gamely posing for a photo with fists raised. I have a feeling that, given the choice, she'd have preferred the cinnamon bun.

MORE mysterious referee hand-signals in the England v France Five Nations match on Saturday. Doubtless their meaning is as clear as day to the participants, but to the uninited international gestures continue to perplex. On Saturday I saw "Put that car out" (a robust pointing gesture). "This is how swans

kiss" (curved hands held aloft, touching gently at the fingertips) and (my favourite, because it needs no description) "I am operating this bilge pump as fast as I can but we may still all drown!"

That aside it was an interesting walkover-type match, with most of the tension arising over whether Jonny Wilkinson would be asked, as a final flourish, to kick a goal from the opposite touchline with his eyes closed. "Back a bit," they kept telling him. "Back a bit more, more, that's it." Why did this young star wrap a protective strip around one ear but not the other, incidentally? I spent the whole match worrying about the exposed lughole and urging him to tuck it in.

## Savage breasts the charms of Ginola

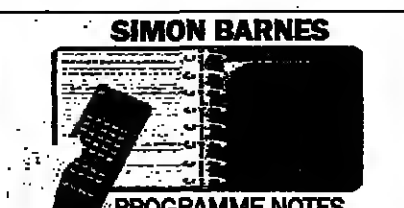
**I**t is even more immutable law of the ex — the principle by which the former player invariably pores against his old club. Call it the ineluctable law of preview — and it is a law that counts double for cup pals. Whenever it seems that a match is destined to be a showcase for the skills and the personality of an individual, the real story of the day is out somebody else.

The League Cup final — I'll have to excuse me, I can't remember who is sponsoring it this year — was supposed to be a master-class for David Ginola.

Ginola, who has the most blutinous skills in English football, was certain to be sought by the extra square yards of the Wembley pitch — and ever mind the analysis, it seemed right. This was to be Ginola's moment. It was written in the stars.

Every preview, written or devised, zoomed in on Ginola, with the occasional acknowledgement of the fact that there were a few other players for Tottenham, plus another entire side — who was it, Leicester? That's all right then, back to Ginola.

So we sat back and waited for Ginola to bewilder everybody along the left touch-line and send the crosses raining in from the left.



Except those of us who have seen a cup final or two before are familiar with the ineluctable law of the preview. You need only look as far back as, well, the last televised cup final, when the World Cup final was supposed to be all about Ronaldo.

Seasoned watchers of cup finals know the signs we have measured out lives in John Barnes cup final previews. So it was not to be Ginola's day. The scene-stealer was a chap called Robbie Savage, who chose to play in a yellow fright-wig to make himself instantly recognisable, and who clearly lost his marbles early

in the second half. Someone was going to have to hit him. There was never a shadow of doubt about it. He had lost it to such a considerable extent, and his hair was so yellow, he simply had to be whacked. It was only a question of who did it and how soon.

The decisive incident was a poor man's Gazza; you'll remember how Gazza lost such few marbles as he still possessed at an FA Cup Final some years ago — 1991 — and injured himself in a flying head-stead tackle.

The not altogether inaptly named Savage did a marginally less extravagant version of the same play, and Edinburgh cuffed him round the head. An instant action-replay showed us that with great clarity. The referee sent Edinburgh off, having little option, yet merely booked Savage.

George Graham, the Tottenham manager, had the ill grace to criticise the referee; he should have thanked him with tears in his eyes. For although the empowering of the side that has the man sent off is not an immutable law, it is something that happens often enough.

And that is the way things turned out. A terrific cutaway showed us Graham, signalling that he wanted to rearrange the side with three men at the back, and we were off. Any time Tottenham managed to forget their desire to stoke Savage up until he reached critical mass and so got sent off himself, they looked assured and certain.

And the goal came with sweet inevitability, from the right, and didn't involve Ginola at all: an astute knockdown from Ferdinand, a galloping run and shot from Iversen, a save and then the headed goal from Nielsen.

George Graham, who loves all things Nordic, seemed very pleased. Savage, meanwhile, looked like the well-known Nordic painkiller by Edward Munch — the one called *The Late Winner*. It was a wonderful scene-stealing performance from Savage. He managed to turn a dull game into an absolute corker.

And it was pretty dire stuff from the spectacle point of view for the first hour or so. That is the odd thing about sport as televised spectacle: when a game refuses to catch light, there is nothing they can do but fume. Sport is unpredictable which is, of course, good news and bad news from the point of pure entertainment.

### TELEVISION HIGHLIGHTS

IN A week dominated by the build-up to Kevin Keegan's first match in charge of England, his predecessor may well steal some of his thunder. In *Huddle and The Healer* tomorrow (Channel 4, 9pm), the former national team coach speaks for the first time since his dismissal about his beliefs, his relationship with Eileen Drewery and the interview with Matt Dickinson, of *The Times*, that led to his downfall. Given that Brian Alexander, the interviewer, knows a little about the relationship between the England manager and the media (he was sports editor of *The Sun* at the time of the Tump Taylor campaign), it promises to be a lively exchange. Tonight *Cutting Edge* presents *Playing for England* (Channel 4, 9pm), an account of the adventures of the Sheffield Wednesday "band" following England during France 98.

### THIS SPORTING WEEK IN THE TIMES

**TOMORROW:** With the Flat racing season under starter's orders later this week, Julian Muscat begins a column focussing on the classic issues. **WEDNESDAY:** The Prince of Wales launches the Sporting Chance appeal to assist disability sport. Rob Hughes takes heart from the continuing victories for human spirit over financial difficulty. **THURSDAY:** Greg Rusedzki and Tim Henman have moved up in class at the Lipton tennis championships. Alex Ramsay monitors their progress. **FRIDAY:** Brian Lara secured his position as West Indies cricket captain in style in Jamaica. Now the Australians are on the back foot for the third Test. Pat Gibson reports. **SATURDAY:** England, under Kevin Keegan, resume the quest to qualify for Euro 2000. Oliver Holt sets the scene for the vital match with Poland.



# Voyage of discovery

Cabin boy's log, sea date March 1999. These are the voyages of the clipper, *Serica*, racing her six sister yachts from Shanghai to Hong Kong. This, the 900-mile final part of the third leg of the Clipper 98 race will take the seven crews to the halfway point of their 34,000-mile race around the world.

The challenge, the longest in the world, follows the trade winds around the belly of the world. The yachts set off from Plymouth on October 17 last year: they will return in late August after more than ten months of competition, crossing the Atlantic three times, the Pacific, Indian Ocean and East and South China Seas.

Exotic stopovers have included the Galapagos Islands and Shanghai with Singapore and Cape Town to follow on the way back to Plymouth. This was the first round-the-world race to moor in Havana, where they received a surprisingly friendly welcome and met little of the expected Cuban bureaucracy.

First run in 1996 and sponsored by *The Times* in the year 2000, this race for paying amateurs is the brainchild of Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, the first man to sail around the world non-stop single-handed in 1968-69 and one of the holders of the fastest circumnavigation in 1994. Having initially attempted to persuade a race organiser to create a separate class for his yachts in 1995, he went it alone again and the rest is happening right now.

Forty per cent of the crews had never sailed before. They went through interviews to assess suitability and were given three weeks' basic training on the yachts, then professional skippers knocked them into shape during the race. "It is the chance for someone with no experience to do something truly momentous that few have done before," Sir Robin said. "It builds confidence and looks great on the CV."



**Matthew Pryor, a landlubber, is finding his sea legs having joined the crew of *Serica* in the Clipper 98 round the world race**

This may not have the standard of the Whitbread nor the toughness of Sir Chay Blyth's BT Global Challenge race for amateurs, which takes the opposite route around the globe against the trade winds, but there is no shortage of competitiveness among the teams and, after more than five months at sea, no delusions that this is a champagne-sipping cruise.

The fleet of seven yachts — *Ariel*, *Chrysolite*, *Antelope*, *Mercurius*, *Thermopylae*, *Serica* and *Tasping* — (which will expand to 12 for the 2000 race) are named after the old tea clipper, which used to rush tea back from China to England. The boats are connected by satellite and can send fax and e-mail, as well as receiving weather information. Radio links between the yachts al-

low for information exchange and gamesmanship in equal measure.

*Ariel* is the clear leader, having won all but two of the stages, and looks unlikely to be caught. The other six are all close and will fight it out for second place.

*Serica* lies sixth but has improved markedly since a disastrous crossing of the Atlantic, which saw the crew miss shore leave in San Salvador and have to sail straight from Madeira to the Bahamas. A highest position of second in the Havana-to-Panama leg, among other good finishes, has lifted them off the bottom.

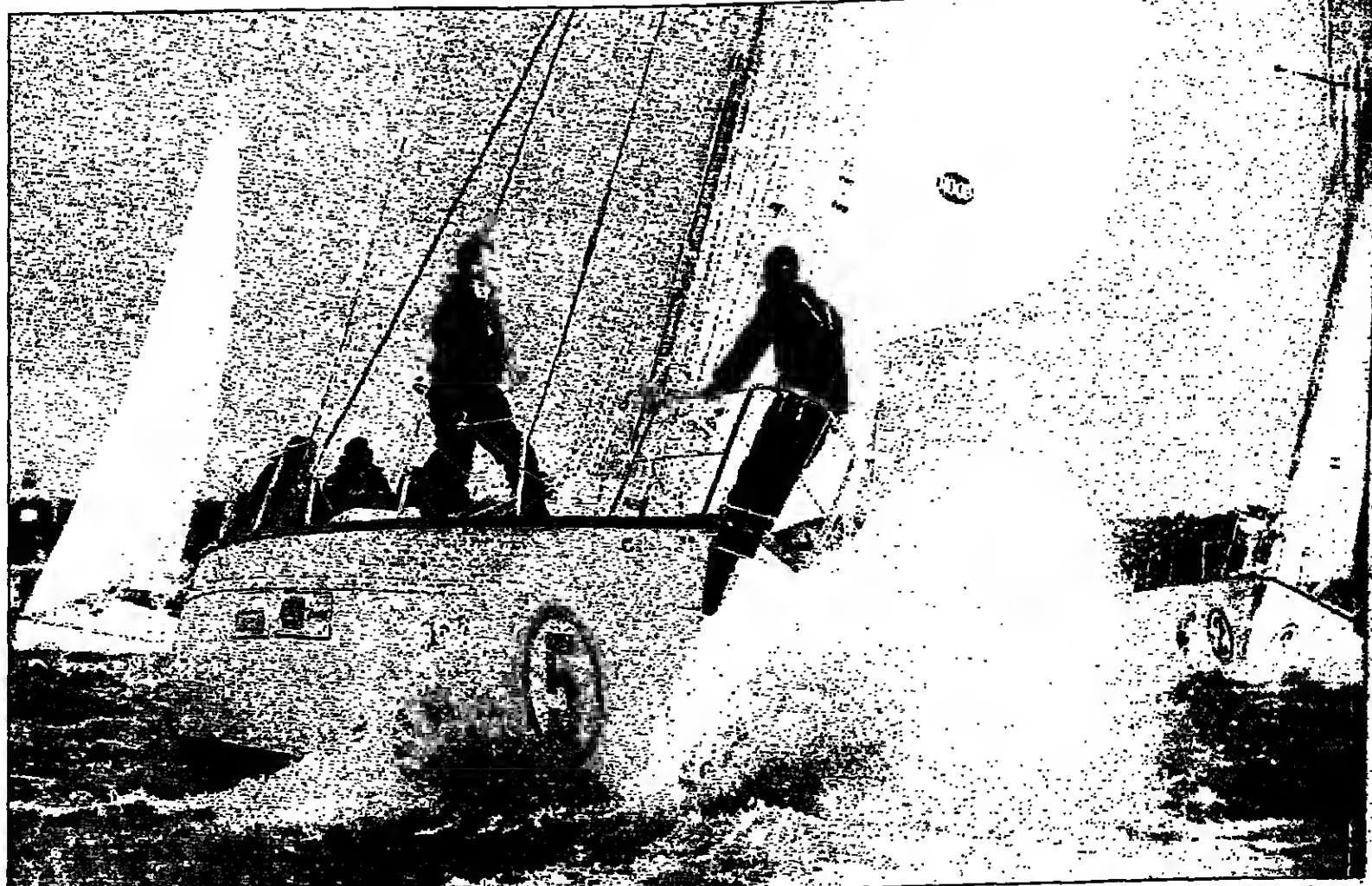
Their fortunes may improve further with Sir Robin on board until Hong Kong. Of me, the other new arrival, the crew are more sceptical. The jury is still out on my introduction in Shanghai.

The crews are almost exclusively British but are a mixture of backgrounds and ages, from 18 to 60. They are constantly changing, with about five "lifers" (those doing the whole circumnavigation) distributed on each boat and "leggers" joining at junctures for varying numbers of legs.

*Serica*'s crew comprises ten men and one woman. Frank, a retired stockbroker from Dublin, is the eldest at 62, followed by Mike, a retired multimillionaire businessman. Iain, a property developer, and Kate, 21, a student of photography in Manchester, the only two with no previous experience, make up the "lifers".

They have been joined by Glen, 25, a Glaswegian, Rowland, 31, a big friendly bear of a Scottish farmer, Alastair, a 47-year-old retired chartered surveyor, nicknamed, for reasons I have yet to discover and have studiously avoided asking, "man with a knife", and more recently by myself, Sir Robin, 27, is the professional skipper.

Some have made many sacrifices to come on this race. At



A life on the ocean wave: the crew of *Serica*, now sailing from Shanghai to Hong Kong, will find their lives changed forever by the Clipper 98 race



For more information on The Times Clipper 2000, phone 01234 711590 or visit the website at: [www.clipper-ventures.com](http://www.clipper-ventures.com)

£22,740 for circumnavigation and around £6,000 for a leg, added to the cost of port stops and lost earnings, this is not a decision made lightly.

This is a case of ordinary people doing something extraordinary, although the motivations may be different. "Some people come to say they've been around the world, others to do something different on a sabbatical," Rupert said. "They might be trying to get away from something, too."

Alastair said. "Everybody has a story."

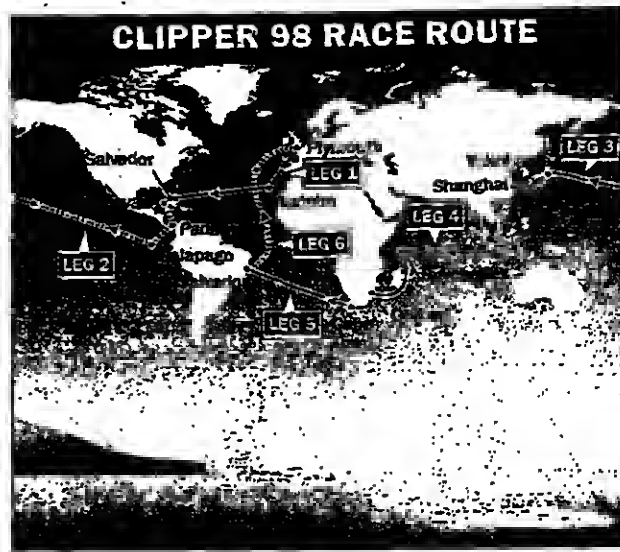
No one is in any doubt that they have taken a monumental step that will affect their lives forever. Rupert was "bitten by the bug" after his first ocean yachting voyage 12 years ago. He cannot imagine doing anything else and foresees changes ahead for the crews. "People become a lot more confident about trying new things after relying entirely on the natural elements, but may have trouble settling down after this."

Iain agrees. "It can be unsettling to a great extent for some people," he said. This is what some are after.

"It is the extremes that are attractive, the highs and lows," Alastair said.

It is not all about sailing skills. "The psychology of living in a cramped environment comes into it enormously," Rupert said.

For some, life has changed on the voyage. Rebecca, who had completed her two legs on *Serica*, announced that she



and the skipper of *Chrysolite* were getting engaged, promptly rang back from Hawaii to resign from her job and found a space on *Thermopylae* to continue.

One of the biggest factors in bonding the crews has been the many close shaves.

ferred a near amputation one foot when the spinnaker slipped away from the boom the way from Hawaii to Yokohama last month. An emergency detour to an American army base, Johnston's AM took four days. The foot was saved but may remain permanently "frozen".

A similar accident happened on *Serica*, literally without injury, which led Frank to compare taking the helm with a spinnaker to "driving a wheelbarrow up a five-storey building in a wind tunnel".

"You get the confidence from the number of near-misses to your life," Iain said.

They have learnt the hard way, making mistakes as they race. "Some people are pen-parkers who could not be sailors in a million years," Alastair said. "Others have just started, like Iain, already able and brave. I would trust him with my life."

He may well have to.

Results, page 9

## AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION



# WIN A £40,000 TVR

Plus £15,000 in cash prizes and Grand Prix trips for runners-up

The Fantasy Formula One results of the Australian Grand Prix appear below with Eddie Irvine leading the drivers on 155 points and Arrows heading the constructors with 21 points. J. Kilmartin of Maidenhead, Berks, wins a pair of four-day passes to this year's British Grand Prix. His team, Prancers 9, scored 813 points in Melbourne and comprised M. Schumacher, Irvine, Fischella, R. Schumacher, Frentzen and Takagi for the drivers and Ferrari.

Benetton, Williams, Arrows, BAR and Stewart for the constructors. The winner of our fantasy title will drive away at the end of the season in a TVR Cerbera, valued at over £40,000. Second prize is £10,000 plus a trip for two to the 2000 Monaco Grand Prix. Third prize is £5,000 plus a pair of four-day passes to the 2000 British Grand Prix. To enter a team for the Brazilian GP, which offers up to 600 bonus points, or to make transfers, see details below.



### AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX RESULTS

**DRIVERS:** Qualifying points (scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid): Pole M. Haldénen 30 points; 2nd D. Coulthard 25; 3rd M. Schumacher 24; 4th R. Barrichello 23; 5th H. Frentzen 22; 6th E. Irvine 21; 7th G. Fischella 20; 8th R. Schumacher 19; 9th D. Hill 18; 10th A. Wurz 17; 11th J. Villeneuve 16; 12th J. Trulli 15; 13th J. Herbert 14; 14th P. Diniz 13; 15th A. Zanardi 12; 16th J. Alesi 11; 17th T. Takagi 10; 18th P. de la Rosa 9; 19th R. Zonta 8; 20th O. Panis 7.

**Finishing points** (scored for the top 20 classified positions at the end of every grand prix): 1st E. Irvine 60 points; 2nd H. Frentzen 50; 3rd R. Schumacher 40; 4th G. Fischella 30; 5th R. Barrichello 25; 6th P. de la Rosa 25; 7th T. Takagi 27; 8th M. Schumacher 26. (Only 6 were classified.) **Lap points** (one point for each lap completed): E. Irvine 57 points; H. Frentzen 57; R. Schumacher 57; G. Fischella 57; R. Barrichello 57; P. de la Rosa 57; T. Takagi 57; M. Schumacher 58; R. Zonta 46; L. Badoer 42; A. Wurz 28; P. Diniz 27; M. Gene 25; J. Trulli 25; O. Panis 23; M. Haldénen 21; A. Zanardi 20; D. Coulthard 13; J. Villeneuve 13. **Improvement from starting grid to finishing position** (3 points for each improved place): P. de la Rosa 36 points; T. Takagi 30; E. Irvine 15; R. Schumacher 15; H. Frentzen 9; G. Fischella 9. **Fastest lap time of grand prix** M. Schumacher 10 points. **Penalty points** (incurred resulting in a driver being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): M. Schumacher -10 points; R. Barrichello -10. **Did not finish the race** (10 points deducted): R. Zonta -10 points; L. Badoer -10; A. Wurz -10; P. Diniz -10; M. Gene -10; J. Trulli -10; O. Panis -10; M. Haldénen -10; A. Zanardi -10; D. Coulthard -10; J. Villeneuve -10; D. Hill -10; J. Alesi -10. **Not starting after qualifying** (10 points deducted): J. Herbert -10 points. **Speeding in the pit lane** (5 points deducted): none. **CONSTRUCTORS:** **Finishing points** (scored for the first car only in the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): Ferrari 30 points; Jordan 25; Williams 24; Benetton 23; Stewart 22; Arrows 21. **Penalty points** (incurred resulting in a car being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): Ferrari -10 points; Stewart -10. **Elimination of a car during the race** (10 points deducted): McLaren -20 points; Prost -20; Sauber -20; Minardi -20; BAR -20; Jordan -10; Williams -10; Benetton -10. **Not starting after qualifying** (10 points deducted): Stewart -10 points. **Speeding in the pit lane** (5 points deducted): none.

**BONUS POINTS** apply to six grands prix during the 1999 Formula One championship, the first of which is the Brazilian GP. Correctly predicting winning driver: 100 points; second place: 200 points; third place: 300 points

### THE PRIZES

**STAR PRIZE:** The manager with the top score on our fantasy leaderboard after the final race of the season will win a £41,100 TVR Cerbera, plus a VIP trip for two to any GP next season. **2ND PRIZE:** £10,000 plus a VIP trip for two to the 2000 Monaco GP. **3RD PRIZE:** £5,000 plus a pair of four-day passes to the 2000 British GP. **INDIVIDUAL RACE WINNERS:** The manager of the team that scores the most points in each GP will win a pair of four-day passes, with centre transfer, for the 1999 or 2000 British Grand Prix, courtesy of Silverstone.

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For details of events at Silverstone call 01527 851273

### TO ENTER BY PHONE

Readers in the UK and Republic of Ireland must call 0640 67 88 88 (+44 870 901 4206 from RoI). Calls last about seven minutes and must be made by Touch-tone telephone. Follow the instructions and tap in your 12 two-digit selections in turn. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply. Then give your team name (up to 18 characters) and details. You can enter until noon on Thursday, April 8, 1999 to qualify for the Brazilian Grand Prix.

### TO ENTER BY POST

Complete the form, right, with your 12 two-digit selections. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply.

### MAKE THREE SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR GROUPS BELOW

The column of figures after the names shows the Fantasy Formula One race scores for the Australian Grand Prix			
DRIVERS			
GROUP A			
04 M. Haldénen	41	07 E. Irvine	155
01 M. Schumacher	155	06 O. Panis	23
03 O. Hill	8	09 G. Fischella	112
04 D. Coulthard	25	10 J. Alesi	11
06 A. Zanardi	12	11 J. Herbert	14
05 J. Villeneuve	16		
GROUP B			
14 R. Schumacher	19	13 J. Trulli	15
19 R. Frentzen	50	18 J. Villeneuve	13
14 A. Wurz	17	20 P. Diniz	27
10 T. Takagi	27	12 R. Zonta	8
12 R. Zonta	8	16 T. Takagi	27
13 J. Trulli	15	17 M. Gene	25
CONSTRUCTORS			
GROUP C			
03 McLaren	20	20 Ferrari	21
04 Ferrari	21	01 Benetton	23
05 Williams	14	02 Stewart	22
06 Jordan	25	07 Tyrrell	24
07 Benetton	23	08 Minardi	20
08 Minardi	20		
GROUP D			
01 Benetton	23	02 Stewart	22
02 Stewart	22	03 McLaren	20
03 McLaren	20	04 Ferrari	21
04 Ferrari	21	05 Williams	14
05 Williams	14	06 Jordan	25
06 Jordan	25	07 Tyrrell	24
07 Tyrrell	24	08 Minardi	20

**FANTASY FORMULA ONE 24-HOUR ENTRY LINE: 0640 67 88 88**  
+44 870 901 4206 from the Irish Republic 0640 calls cost 60p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 870 calls)

### TRANSFERS

You can make a total of 12 transfers. Each transfer allows you to change one selection. You can make up to four transfers with each call. For the Brazilian GP call 0640 678 801 (+44 870 901 4206 from RoI) before noon on Thursday April 8 with your 10-digit PIN to hand. Your new team must have three selections from each of groups A, B, C and D.

### RESULTS SERVICE

**BY PHONE:** check the score and position of your team(s) after the Australian race by calling 0640 622 178 (+44 870 901 4278 from RoI) with your 10-digit PIN. **BY FAX:** have your 10-digit PIN ready, pick up the handset on your fax, or press the on-hook or telephone button, and dial 0991 123 714. Follow the instructions. You will receive details of your race score, the points for your drivers and constructors and your position on our leaderboard. Calls cost £1 per minute and are available in the UK only. If you have any problems, call the helpline on 0171-412 3795.

### THE TIMES NATWEST FANTASY FORMULA ONE ENTRY FORM

Complete this form with your credit-card details, or enclose a sterling cheque for £3 payable to Fantasy Formula One. (For readers resident outside the UK and Republic of Ireland the fee is £15.) Post it to: *The Times NatWest Fantasy Formula One*, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton LU1 1ZZ. Your entry must be received by Wednesday, April 7, 1999 to qualify for the Brazilian GP.

<b>GROUP A AND GROUP B DRIVERS</b>	1st	2nd	3rd	My/Mrs/Ms/Ms also initials PLEASE	Initials	Age
				Surname		
<b>GROUP C AND GROUP D CONSTRUCTORS</b>	1st	2nd	3rd	Address		
				Postcode		
Team Name (maximum of 16 characters)				Day tel		
I have read and accept the rules and wish to enter the Fantasy Formula One game.				Credit Card Payment		
Signature				Card number		
Date				Expiry date		
1. On which days do you usually buy The Times?				3. Which National Sunday Newspaper(s) do you buy almost always (3-4 copies per month)?		
Monday <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday <input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday <input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <input type="checkbox"/> Friday <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday <input type="checkbox"/>				4. Which National Sunday Newspaper(s) do you buy quite often (1-2 copies per month)?		
Don't usually buy The Times <input type="checkbox"/>						
2. Which other National Daily Newspaper(s) do you buy at least once a week?						

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Gregory's future in doubt after defeat

Jubilee is a

David H

The Jubilee is a...

The Jubilee is a...



# Gregory's future in doubt after defeat

Wakefield Trinity Wildcats...22  
Salford Reds...10

BY DAVID LAWRENSEN

THE future of Andy Gregory, the Salford coach, is hanging in the balance after another poor performance by his side. They were knocked out of the Challenge Cup last week by Castleford and yesterday lost their second JJB Super League match.

Gregory said he was disappointed by his team's showing. "As a player I always gave 100 per cent and I have as a coach. I don't think I've ever been as low as I am at the moment. I'm the head coach and I'll accept responsibility, but there are players, in my eyes, who are not performing to Super League standard."

Wakefield got off to a fine start when David March crashed over for a try under the posts. Graham Law converted and Trinity were playing with confidence until Kevin Crouthers, the centre, made a poor attempt at tackling his opposite number, Paul Carige, who scored in the corner in the twelfth minute.

Wakefield regained the lead midway through the half when Lynton Stott raced onto Adrian Brunner's kick to the corner to make it 10-4. Salford were struggling, but Martin Crompton hauled them back into the game when Garen Casey latched onto his next grubber kick to score. Casey drew them level with the conversion, but just before half-time Salford's defence was caught napping when March dashed over from dummy half and Graham Law's conversion gave Trinity a 16-10 lead.

After a scrappy opening to the second half, the second-row forward, Willie Poching, clinched it for Trinity when he looped round the full back, Andy Hodgson, to score. Graham Law's conversion made it 22-10.

SCORES: Wakefield: Tries: March 2, Stott, Poching, Casey. Goals: Law 3. Salford: Tries: Crouthers, Casey. Goals: Gregory 2. Wakefield: Tries: March 2, Stott, Poching, Casey. Goals: Law 3. Salford: Tries: Crouthers, Casey. Goals: Gregory 2.

Wakefield Trinity Wildcats...22  
Salford Reds...10

Wakefield Trinity Wildcats...22  
Salford Reds...10

# Disgraced Sharks regain lost respect

Hull Sharks...3  
Bradford Bulls...8

BY MARTIN RICHARDS

HULL produced a performance of great character to restrict Bradford to a single try and win back the respect of their fans after the debacle of their opening day defeat at Wigan. The home side overcame the loss of Karl Harrison, the captain, and Matt Schultz, who had been tipped to help more misery on the Sharks after their 58-6 loss at Central Park a fortnight ago.

The only try of the game came from a sublime pass from Steve McNamara, the former Hull forward, who broke from dummy half to put Nathan McAvoy, the winger, in at the corner in the 27th minute. Two penalties from McNamara early in the second half gave the Bulls more breathing space but they needed to call on all their defensive reserves to deny the Sharks after the interval.

Peter Walsh, the Hull coach, who had been vilified by the home fans after the defeat at Wigan, was understandably proud of his side's performance. "If we can produce that sort of commitment every week, a win is just around the corner," Walsh said. "Bradford had unbelievable possession and should have put us away but the lads stood up to them, which is something they didn't do at Wigan."

Hull now have a frustrating two-week period without a competitive match before they face three matches in eight days.

Matthew Elliott, the Bradford coach, was satisfied with

the hard-earned victory and especially pleased with his hard-working defence, who prevented Hull from scoring a try.

The visitors looked distinctly uncomfortable in the first half with the wind and rain driving into their faces and Hull took advantage of their early indiscipline when Steve Prescott, the full back, put them ahead with a fourth-minute penalty.

Prescott extended Hull's lead with a sweetly-struck dropped goal six minutes later and the Bulls' errors were underlined when Paul Anderson, the prop, fumbled the ball in front of his own posts, although Hull were unable to take advantage of the mistake.

The Sharks continued to play with great passion but were undone by McNamara's moment of quality while a Hull player was lying injured. Bradford still struggled to establish any kind of dominance and they lost Mike Forsyth to the sin-bin five minutes before the break.

Hull's defence stood firm when Tevita Vaikona, another former Hull player, was forced into touch after McNamara had put him clear down the right wing with another excellent pass.



Two Hull Sharks players struggle to contain the powerful running of Nathan McAvoy, the Bradford Bulls winger

# Fleming completes spirited fightback

Sheffield Eagles...20  
London Broncos...26

BY DAVID LAWRENSEN

DAN STAINS, the London Broncos coach, will have to sour Australia for another forward after his prop, Grant Young, was carried off with a suspected broken leg that will put him out for the rest of the season.

Earlier in the week, London Broncos lost another forward, Darren Bradstreet, with a shoulder injury, so Stains is going to have to mix and match up front for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final against Castleford on Saturday. At least his side will go into the game on a high, after a remarkable comeback that enabled his team to extend their unbeaten run.

A poor first half ended with Sheffield leading 8-6 after a try by Martin Pearson, the stand-off, and a penalty and conversion from Mark Aston. London Broncos replied with a touchdown from Greg Fleming, converted by Brett Warton, but after the interval the home side capitalised on the Broncos' errors. Pearson added a second try and Jeff

Hardy put Darren Shaw over for another, both of which were converted by Aston. The Broncos' reply was a solitary penalty from Warton.

With Sheffield leading 20-8 going into the final quarter, it looked all over for the visitors but their half backs, Shaun Edwards and Karl Hammond, gradually brought their side back into the game. Martin Offiah supported a break by Robbie Beasley to race in for a try with 15 minutes remaining, and Dominic Peters went over with five minutes to go. Greg Fleming claimed the winner in the final minute, with Warton converting all three.

Stains said: "They showed mental toughness for sure. To come back when you are down by 12 points with 15 minutes to go shows a lot of heart and a lot of spirit."

SCORES: Sheffield Eagles: Tries: Pearson 2, Shaw. Goals: Aston 4. London Broncos: Tries: Fleming 1, Offiah, Peters. Goals: Warton 5.

SHEFFIELD EAGLES: W. Swales, B. Stace, K. Lewis, K. Swain, M. Crouther, P. Pearson, M. Aston, S. Hedley, J. Lawrence, O. Laughton, M. Jackson, O. Shaw, J. Hardy. Substitutes: O. Powell, O. Wilson, R. Wright, P. Anderson.

LONDON BRONCOS: T. Tait, B. Warton, G. Fleming, J. Tait, M. Elliott, K. Hammond, S. Edwards, G. Young, R. Beasley, S. Fletcher, D. Peters, R. Simpson, P. Gill, S. Beasley, R. Dwyer, S. Hedley, M. Tait, O. Callaway. Referee: S. Presley (Castleford).

# Holroyd's display inspires Halifax

Huddersfield Giants...14  
Halifax Blue Sox...17

BY A CORRESPONDENT

GRAHAM HOLROYD repaid a huge chunk of the transfer fee Halifax Blue Sox paid to Leeds Rhinos before Christmas with an influential display against Huddersfield Giants at the McAlpine Stadium yesterday.

The stand-off scored one try, kicked four goals and landed a neatly-taken field goal to give the Blue Sox a slender victory over their neighbours.

Huddersfield lacked penetration and, despite outscoring their opponents by three tries to two, never deserved the win that almost went their way. The home side were convinced they had scored the match-winning try two minutes from time only for the referee to rule out David Boughn's touchdown for a forward pass from Robbie Goulding.

The incident crowned a disappointing day for the Huddersfield captain who kicked only one goal from three attempts.

Coulding did get it right after nine minutes, however, when his diagonal kick was plucked out of the air by John Bentley, who went on to score. But from the moment Holroyd sidestepped and swerved his way through for a try after 12 minutes, Halifax always had the ascendancy.

Holroyd converted the goal from his try and was then involved in a fine score by Damien Gibson, the Australian utility back. Holroyd, who had also landed a penalty, kicked the goal to open up an eight-point gap.

The Giants stayed in contention with the first of winger Andy Cheetham's two tries, but from the restart Holroyd again edged Halifax clear with his second penalty and a field goal.

Cheetham's second try briefly raised Huddersfield's hopes but Halifax held their nerve to secure their first victory in Super League IV.

SCORES: Huddersfield Giants: Tries: Cheetham 2, Bentley. Goals: Goulding, Hall, Bentley. Halifax Blue Sox: Tries: Holroyd, Gibson. Goals: Holroyd 5.

# Orr injury doubles Castleford troubles

Warrington Wolves...19  
Castleford Tigers...14

BY PETER WILSON

CASTLEFORD, the Challenge Cup semi-finalists, suffered heavily at the hands of Warrington and may be without the services of Danny Orr, the stand-off, for their tie against London Broncos on Saturday.

Orr was helped off with damaged knee ligaments on the stroke of half-time and is considered extremely doubtful for Saturday. He was joined on the injured list by Dean Sampson, a prop, and Aaron Raper, the hooker.

Orr's early departure left Castleford short of midfield inspiration and a recognised goal kicker. His loss also prompted Stuart Raper, the Castleford coach, to call for more protection for his young half back.

Warrington showed they can still be an influence in the Super League with a spirited second-half rally, thanks to the efforts of Toa Kohe-Love, the New Zealand centre, who scored two tries.

Kohe-Love opened the scoring with a try after 26 minutes from Danny Farrar's pass but Castleford's swift reply brought a try for Richard Gay, the right winger, who rounded off an excellent four-man move. Orr added the conversion to put the Tigers ahead.

Warrington regained the advantage four minutes before half-time with a try by Ian Knott and a dropped goal from Lee Briers but, five minutes into the second half, were trailing again to a try by Michael Eagar.

Castleford missed Orr badly after the interval, allowing Kohe-Love and the lively Briers to take advantage with two tries in the space of five minutes. Brad Davis scored a consolation try for Castleford two minutes from the end.

SCORES: Warrington: Tries: Kohe-Love 2, Knott, Briers. Goals: Davis. Castleford: Tries: Gay, Eagar, Davis. Goals: Orr 2.

WARRINGTON WOLVES: J. Brier, J. Raper, T. Kohe-Love, A. Hume, M. Forster, S. Wilson, Briers, M. Hume, O. Forster, D. Nulley, I. Knott, S. Gay, M. Warrington. Substitutes: O. Hanger, G. Chambers, C. Cawsey, S. McGee.

CASTLEFORD TIGERS: J. Flowers, A. Gay, M. Eagar, A. Knowles, D. Rogers, D. Orr, B. Davis, O. Sampson, A. Raper, N. Sykes, O. Forster, G. Talbot, A. Lynch, J. Wells. Referee: S. Garson (St Helens).

# Jubilee is a cut above the rest

David Hands looks back at the success of the National School Sevens, which celebrates its diamond jubilee this week

George's, Harpenden and Clifton College, will be the guests of honour and old boys' teams representing those two schools will play a special match. To give some idea of the continuity of this tournament, 15 of the original schools — the two finalists, Bedford, Cheltenham, Collier, Cranbrook, Epsom, Eastbourne, Gresham's, King's (Canterbury), Mill Hill, Mount St Mary's, St Paul's, Sevenoaks and Stonyhurst — are still competing. The sixteenth side was a composite VII called the Incogniti, drawn from the South of England schools.

One of the St George's boys who beat Clifton 10-8 in the first final, Michael Heron, has been a Benedictine monk for 53 years. Now 77, Dom Benedict Heron regularly passes the Saracens training ground as he goes about his pastoral duties from the monastery of Christ the King but the names of his team colleagues still roll easily off his tongue, among them Dennis Watts, who went on to become the national

coach for the Amateur Athletics Association.

"Dennis was our flier, we had had a good school year and we felt there was a chance of doing well," Father Benedict, who was a flanker, said. "We were lucky in that we played the first of the semi-finals and had longer to rest than Clifton. But it was quite an achievement because we were a small co-educational school then."



coach for the Amateur Athletics Association.

St George's won 10-8 and Father Benedict, who was a conscientious objector during the war, still chuckles at the team he played for in wartime, based on the Friends' Ambulance, who did such dangerous work during the Blitz. "It must have been the only rugby team to consist entirely of pacifists," he said.

Saracens have also provided coaching clinics for John Fisher as they bid for a third successive win, a feat which has been achieved only once in 60 years — by the Llanelli side of

1961-63. It is a tribute to the staff at the Surrey school that they regularly field 17 XV's at various age levels during the season, and that their first XV is unbeaten for a second successive season, despite a circuit that includes Dulwich, Whittington, and for the first time this season, Eton.

"Though we are at different ends of the educational spectrum, the welcome we received at Eton was fantastic," Mike Davies, the John Fisher coach, said. "Schools rugby is very strong but we have to remember that's only five per cent of all the schools in the country."

The John Fisher VII include Matthew Leek, the England 18-group fly half, and Tom Robinson, who has played for England A this season.

Nor are the girls forgotten. There were seven entrants in last year's inaugural girls' competition, which was won by John Cleveland College from Hinckley. Their alumni include Dean Richards, the Leicester team manager and former England No 8, and they will defend their title against a field which has grown to 24.

Rugby for girls was introduced to the college in 1994 but they have struggled for fixtures in the last two seasons. Yet they have already produced a role model in Vicky McCormack, who captained last year's VII and has won a place in the Emerging England squad. "Winning was a significant achievement," Paul Walsh, the first XV coach, said. "It generated publicity for the school and renewed enthusiasm for the game. It'll be much harder this year."

# SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Mike Lawrence is an ex-world champion, and one of the best writers on the game. He has recently produced a series of computer products which provide over-the-shoulder tuition. "Private Bridge Lessons Volume II" — the latest — consists of more than 100 deals, primarily covering card play, but with interesting bidding points. Each time you deviate from Lawrence's recommended line, the program interrupts to explain the error of your ways. This is an example.

Dealer North		Game all	
W	N	E	S
Pass	2S	Pass	1S
Contract: Two Spades by South. Lead: queen of hearts.			
Playing a strong no-trump North opened One Diamond. What do you think of North's raise to Two Spades holding only three spades? Lawrence points out that the Moysian fit (a term originating from Sonny Moysie, the editor of the Bridge World in the 50s, who strongly advocated the virtues of 4-3 fits) is on this hand a better contract than One No-Trump, where the seventh trick cannot be set up in time.		hand with long trumps, normally poor technique. However, this time the "dummy reversal" strategy virtually guarantees the contract. With the opening lead and immediately set about ruffing three hearts in the South hand using dummy's three aces as the entries; you can afford to ruff high each time. The jack and ten of spades will bring the tally up to eight tricks.	
"Private Bridge Lessons" costs £39.95 (inc.) from Mr Bridge (01483 489961), or Chess and Bridge (0171 388 2404). You need a PC to run it.		Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.	

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

# WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- FEASANCE  
a. Feudal duty  
b. Hay  
c. Practicability
- GRADUS  
a. A dictionary  
b. Part of a real tennis court  
c. A step in rhetoric
- FITEN  
a. A bespoke suit  
b. A marsh bird  
c. A lie
- GRISON  
a. A Swiss roast cheese dish  
b. A quadruped  
c. A linen apron

Answers on page 46

# KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

The results from the first round of the national stage of The Times Schools Championship are now in.

The pairings for the second round are as follows: Calday Grange School v Manchester Grammar School; Cottingham High School v Oakham School; Hampton School v Tiffin School; Katherine Lady Berkeley's School v Torquay Boys Grammar School; Magdalen College School, Oxford v Ipswich School; Maidstone Boys Grammar School v St Paul's, London; Naim Academy v Royal Belfast Academical Institute; Queen Elizabeth's Boys Grammar School v Yarm School.

Short wins  
Nigel Short has tied for first place in the tournament at Dhaka in Bangladesh. Results were as follows: Short and Schulman 8.5/12; Elvest and Wojtkiewicz 8; Sagrebeini 7; Rahman 6.5.

White: Nigel Short  
Black: Alex Wojtkiewicz  
Dhaka 1999

Sicilian Defence	
1. e4	c5
2. Nc3	Nc6
3. Ng2	g5
4. ...	...a4
5. Nd4	Bg7
6. Bc3	Nf5
7. Bc4	O-O
8. Bb3	...e6
9. ...	...Nbd4
10. Bb4	Bb6
11. O-O	Bc5
12. ...	Bg7
13. ...	Bxb3
14. axb3	...e6
15. ...	...Rc8
16. Qe2	...e6

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by email. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from Times readers will be published either here or in the Saturday Times Weekend column.

White to play. This position is from the game Goswami-Murugan, Calcutta 1999. How did White power through on the kingside with a typical attacking plan?

Solution on page 46











AN EXCLUSIVE PRIZE DRAW

# Win a cottage in Cornwall



Starting today, *The Times*, in association with the Virgin One account, offers readers the chance to win a lovely cottage in the typical Cornish village of Perranwell Station. Smithy Cottage, with its two bedrooms and pretty garden, is the ideal holiday home. Close to Truro and an 18-hole golf course, our prize cottage will provide the lucky winner with the perfect place from which to watch the eclipse of the sun on August 11.

Our partner in this great prize draw, is the Virgin One account. The One account brings all your banking and borrowing together, offers a 24-hour, seven-day telephone banking service and gives you the opportunity to save thousands of pounds in interest charges on your mortgage. Even if you are not lucky enough

to win our fabulous cottage, you can still gain by finding out how much a Virgin One account could save you by making the most of all your money.



Selected for the prize: Falmouth Harbour, 100, Truro Cathedral and Trevelick Gardens

## HOW TO ENTER

● All you have to do for a chance to win this dream cottage is collect 12 *Times* tokens and two tokens from *The Sunday Times* and attach them to an entry form which will be published for the first time tomorrow. A total of 28 tokens will appear between today and April 18 so you have at least two opportunities to enter. There will also be a bonus token published every Friday. The winner will be chosen at random from all entries received by Friday, April 30, 1999. Normal *Times* Newspapers prize draw rules apply.

### ● ALREADY A WINNER ●

Air John Bromwich and his wife, Vanda, whose two children are grown-up and have moved away, have had a Virgin One account for 15 months. "The main benefits are flexibility and that I know exactly where I stand at the end of each month," he said. "The One account is the most efficient thing I could do to make the most of all my money, and as a result interest payments are less than before. I am planning to buy a car using my One account so I'll pay less interest than I would with a traditional loan. I have also doubled in stocks and shares using the account which is an added benefit."

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**TERMS AND CONDITIONS** 1. Entrants must be 18 years or over and residents of the UK or Republic of Ireland. 2. You can enter the prize draw as many times as you wish. Each entry must be on an official entry form (no photocopies accepted) accompanied by 14 differently numbered tokens - 12 from *The Times* and two from *The Sunday Times*. Tokens will be published daily from March 22 until April 18, 1999 in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*. A total of 28 tokens will be published - 24 in *The Times* and four in *The Sunday Times*. 4. Entries must be received by Friday, April 30, 1999. 5. The winner will be chosen at random from all completed entries. 6. The prize is as stated in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*. There is no cash alternative. The winner must accept the property as he or she finds it and *Times Newspapers Limited* (TNL) and Virgin Direct accept no responsibility whatsoever for any alterations or

repairs deemed necessary by the winner. TNL and Virgin Direct reserve the right to substitute an alternative property of similar value to the prize as stated in the case of unforeseen factors relating to the featured property. 7. No purchase necessary. You can request an entry form and any tokens you need by completing one or more applications, for up to four tokens (Virgin Direct, see *Sunday Times*) at a time. Send your application with a stamped self-addressed envelope to: Cottage Token Request, PO Box 5088, Liphook, Hampshire GU30 7GL. Or you can collect the tokens and entry form in person (Mon-Fri) from News International, 1 Virginia St, London E1 900; 124 Portman St, London W1A 6AP; or 4th Floor, Hargreaves House, 35-38 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2. Requests must be received by Friday, April 23, 1999. 8. The prize draw will be independently supervised. The judge's decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered

into. 9. The winner will be notified by May 7, 1999. 10. The winner's name and photograph will be used for publicity purposes. 11. No responsibility can be accepted for entries damaged, lost or stolen before or after delivery. Failure of an entry to be delivered by the date, or in the manner specified, will result in the entry being void. 12. Details of the prize winner may be obtained by sending a postcard to *The Times* Competitions Dept, 1 Pennington St, London, E1 900. 13. Employees of TNL, Virgin Direct or any related companies are not eligible to enter. 14. Virgin Direct will transfer the prize to the winner and not to any other person. Once the transfer has been completed, Virgin Direct and TNL accept no responsibility whatsoever for the property or contents pertaining to the ownership. Virgin Direct refers to Virgin Direct Personal Finance Ltd, Westhouse Square, 128-142 Holborn, London EC1N 2TH.

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CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الأهل



# Waiver of legal privilege is limited

# Elvis Presley name not sufficiently distinctive

Paragon Finance plc (formerly known as National Home Loans Corporation plc) and Others v Freshfields (a Firm)

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Bingham and Lord Justice Chadwick [Judgment March 11]

Where a client brought proceedings against his former solicitors for negligence in the handling of a mortgage transaction, between himself and a third party, the client's waiver of legal professional privilege, implied from his bringing proceedings, did not extend to confidential communications between himself and different solicitors instructed to pursue and settle his claim against the third party.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing an appeal by the plaintiffs, Paragon Finance plc, formerly known as National Home Loans Corporation plc, Collateralised Mortgage Securities (No 4) plc, Collateralised Mortgage Securities (No 5) plc, Collateralised Mortgage Securities (No 6) plc, Collateralised Mortgage Securities (No 7) plc, Collateralised Mortgage Securities (No 8) plc and Collateralised Mortgage Securities (No 9) plc, from Mr Justice Bingham's decision in the High Court, where he had ordered disclosure of certain documents, being confidential communications between the plaintiffs and their former solicitors, Slaughter & May, and counsel concurring their claims against Slaughter & May in effecting the recovery and in restructuring the CMS companies.

Freshfields had acted for the plaintiffs in a series of mortgage security transactions and in the obtaining of related insurance contracts. When the insurers declined to meet claims made by the plaintiffs under the policies, Freshfields, although initially advising, withdrew and Slaughter & May acted for the plaintiffs in pursuing and settling the claims.

The plaintiffs subsequently began a negligence action against Freshfields, claiming, inter alia, the costs of the negotiations and of the proceedings, the shortfall suffered in recovery under the policies and the fees charged by Slaughter & May in effecting the recovery and in restructuring the CMS companies.

Freshfields strongly denied the allegations, contested causation and loss, and alleged failure to mitigate and contributory negligence.

Mr Stewart Boyd, QC and Mr Charles Hollander, for the plaintiffs; Mr Simon Brown-Wilkinson, QC and Mr Bankin Thanki for Freshfields.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the judge had concluded that there was no real distinction between the situation in which the solicitor sued had acted for the client in a number of different transactions and a different solicitor in others.

His Lordship referred to the judge's view that legal professional privilege was not significantly undermined by holding that the implied waiver arising from a client's suit against his lawyer for professional negligence extended to any privileged communications touching the transaction which gave rise to the negligence charge and which were relevant to the just determination of issues between them.

The plaintiffs criticised the decision as contrary to principle and to the balance of authority.

The defendants upheld it, drawing an analogy between express and implied waiver. They said that just as a party could not cherry-pick by expressly waiving privilege in part of a document and asserting it in relation to another part, so a party who sued his solicitor alleging negligence in relation to a given transaction implicitly waived privilege not only in relation to communications between him and the solicitor but also in relation to communications between him and any other solicitor he might have instructed in relation to the same transaction.

His Lordship said that the nature and basis of legal professional privilege had been often and authoritatively expounded: see *R v Derby Magistrates' Court, ex parte B* [1996] AC 487. At its root lay the obligation of confidence which a legal adviser owed to his client in relation to any confidential professional communication passing between them.

For readily intelligible reasons of public policy, the law had accorded to such communications a degree of protection denied to communications, however confidential, between clients and other professional advisers.

Save where client and legal adviser had abused their confidential relationship to facilitate crime or fraud, the protection was absolute unless the client, whose privilege it was, waived it expressly or impliedly.

A client expressly waived privilege when he elected to disclose communications which the privi-

lege would entitle him not to disclose. While there was no rule that a party who waived privilege in relation to one communication was taken to waive it in relation to all, he might not waive it in such a partial and selective manner that unfairness or misunderstanding might result.

When a client sued a solicitor who had formerly acted for him complaining of negligence he invited the court to adjudicate on questions directly arising from the confidential relationship formerly subsisting between them. Since court proceedings were public, the client brought that formerly confidential relationship into the public domain.

He thereby waived any right to claim the protection of privilege in relation to any communication between them so far as necessary for the just determination of his claim.

That was an implication of law, the rationale of which was plain. A party could not deliberately waive a relationship to public scrutiny and at the same time seek to preserve its confidentiality.

He could not pick and choose, disclosing such incidents of the relationship as strengthened his claim and concealing from forensic scrutiny those as weakened it.

He could not attack his former solicitor and deny him the use of materials relevant to his defence. But since the implied waiver applied to communications between client and solicitor it would cover no communication to which the solicitor was not privy and so would disclose to the solicitor nothing of which he was not already aware.

By bringing the proceedings the plaintiffs had implicitly waived any claim to privilege in relation to confidential communications between them and Freshfields concerning the transactions up to the moment Freshfields ceased to act. That was not in issue.

The question was whether the plaintiffs had also implicitly waived any such claim in relation to confidential communications between them and Slaughter & May relating to the pursuit and settlement of claims arising from the transactions. Approaching that question as one of pure principle the court concluded that they had not.

They had not sued Slaughter & May, had not invited the court to enquire into any confidential relationship with them and so had not brought that relationship into the public domain. They had done nothing to release Slaughter & May from the obligation of confi-

dence by which they were bound. They had chosen to subject their relationship with Freshfields, not that with Slaughter & May, to public scrutiny. They were not seeking to pick and choose among confidential communications passing between themselves and Slaughter & May; none was, so far, in the forensic arena.

It was open to Freshfields by way of defence to rely on any communication passing between themselves and the plaintiffs. To hold that the plaintiffs had implicitly waived privilege in relation to confidential communications between themselves and Slaughter & May would be, not to enable Freshfields to rely on communications of which they were already aware, but to disclose to them communications of which they now had no knowledge.

The plaintiffs were correct in submitting that the judge's conclusion was inconsistent with the principle governing implied waiver of legal professional privilege.

It had, however, to be tested against the decided cases. His Lordship referred to *Lilly v Nader and Son* [1953] 1 WLR 94, 101, 102 where the Court of Appeal had ruled that the plaintiffs' implied waiver extended to earlier transactions handled for them by the same solicitors.

Both sides had relied on that decision as authority for the proposition that, even as between plaintiffs and solicitors advising them in their proceedings against former solicitors, where the interests of justice called for disclosure, the law required it. But the court's ruling in *Lilly* had to be read with reference to the subject matter of the appeal before it. The present court had no doubt it had been right to rule as it did. It was not understood to have gone further than that, and it was unnecessary for it to have done so.

His Lordship referred to *Nederlandse Reassurantie Groep Holding NV v Bacon and Woodrow* [1995] 1 All ER 976 and to *Bank of Montreal v Bell* [1995] 1 WLR 1139, 1140, 1141, 1142, 1143, 1144, 1145, 1146, 1147, 1148, 1149, 1150, 1151, 1152, 1153, 1154, 1155, 1156, 1157, 1158, 1159, 1160, 1161, 1162, 1163, 1164, 1165, 1166, 1167, 1168, 1169, 1170, 1171, 1172, 1173, 1174, 1175, 1176, 1177, 1178, 1179, 1180, 1181, 1182, 1183, 1184, 1185, 1186, 1187, 1188, 1189, 1190, 1191, 1192, 1193, 1194, 1195, 1196, 1197, 1198, 1199, 1200, 1201, 1202, 1203, 1204, 1205, 1206, 1207, 1208, 1209, 1210, 1211, 1212, 1213, 1214, 1215, 1216, 1217, 1218, 1219, 1220, 1221, 1222, 1223, 1224, 1225, 1226, 1227, 1228, 1229, 1230, 1231, 1232, 1233, 1234, 1235, 1236, 1237, 1238, 1239, 1240, 1241, 1242, 1243, 1244, 1245, 1246, 1247, 1248, 1249, 1250, 1251, 1252, 1253, 1254, 1255, 1256, 1257, 1258, 1259, 1260, 1261, 1262, 1263, 1264, 1265, 1266, 1267, 1268, 1269, 1270, 1271, 1272, 1273, 1274, 1275, 1276, 1277, 1278, 1279, 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TODAY

Interests: Schroder Ventures International Investment Trust. Firms: Alexon Group, Asda Property, A&C Black, Core Group, Flying Flowers, Marston, Morgan Crucible, Nestor Healthcare Group, Newquest, Peptide Therapeutics, Roxboro, Transnet, TT Group. Economic statistics: q4 final GDP, q4 balance of payments.

TOMORROW

Interests: Allied London Properties, Dowling & Mills, Scottish Metropolitan Properties, Wesco Group. Firms: Capital Industries, Charles Baynes, BLP Group, Boosey & Hawkes, Dawson Group, Delta, EBC Group, Frogmore Estates, Hunting, Iceland Group, Macfarlane Group, Moorepay Group, Newport Holdings, Pegasus Group, P&O, Severfield-Reeve, Sherwood Group. Economic statistics: February consumer price index.

WEDNESDAY

Interests: Barratt Developments. Firms: Alliance UniChem, AG Barr, Brake Bros, Chelmsford, City Centre Restaurants, Darby Group, Fishers International, Fleetech, Gwyned International, Independent News, Bernard Matthews, Next, Quality Software, Slough Estates, Stanford Rock Holdings, Taylor & Francis Group, Television Corp, Weir Group, Wolstenholme Rink. Economic statistics: January global, February non-EU trade, NTC February cyclical indicators.

THURSDAY

Interests: Belgio Group, Cairngorm Dem Investment Trust, Leicester City, Northern Leisure, Quayle Munro, Scottish Oriental. Firms: Ask Central, COLT Telecom (q4), Informa Group, Kingspan Group, Norcor, Novara, Octel's, Premier Oil, Quadrant Healthcare, Silvermines, Singer & Friedlander Group. Economic statistics: British Bankers' Association analysis of February mortgage lending, Confederation of British Industry March industrial trends survey.

FRIDAY

Interests: none scheduled. Firms: Enness, IS Solutions. Economic statistics: none scheduled.

EXCHANGE

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	198.8	2.50
Belgium F	21.53	19.87
Brussels B	13.37	19.87
Canada C	2.50	2.402
Danish D	0.0073	0.6588
Denmark K	11.57	10.78
Egypt E	5.78	5.15
France F	11.12	11.12
Germany M	10.26	9.48
Greece Dr	3.081	2.838
Hong Kong H	5.61	4.67
India Ru	13.45	12.25
Ireland P	1.29	1.09
Italy L	16102	13102
Japan Y	1,2294	1,1404
South Africa R	6.81	6.25
Spain P	16102	13102
Sweden Kr	205.78	188.25
Switzerland F	0.875	0.618
Taiwan N	3.478	3.153
UK £	3.20	2.97
US \$	1.33	1.25
Yen Y	11.57	10.78
Yuan R	10.75	9.79
Yuan R	258.71	240.52
Yuan R	12.12	13.02
Yuan R	2.336	2.318
Yuan R	1.796	1.593

Notes for small denomination banknotes only as accepted by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates up to close of trading on Friday.

COMPANIES

MICHAEL CLARK

# P&O sails into calmer waters



Something to declare: Lord Sterling of Plaistow is expected to report a strong performance at P&O's cruise division

**PENINSULA & ORIENTAL** The cruise division of P&O will have provided the thrust to power profits ahead. Final results, due out tomorrow, will show pre-tax profits coming in at between £390 million and £410 million. That compares with £363 million last time. Earnings per share are likely to be up from 44p to 46.5p.

Brokers say the group should be capable of similar earnings growth in the current year after a shake-up designed to simplify its complicated structure.

During the period, P&O took delivery of two new cruise ships, but the benefit from this will not be apparent until the current year. Its performance this time is expected to show a 26 per cent increase in operating profit to £220 million.

The outcome might have been even better had it not been for the drop in cruising yields blamed on the downturn midway through the year on Wall Street.

The other divisions will also have made progress, with the exception of container shipping, where yields remain under pressure, bulk shipping, suffering from overcapacity, and investment property. Lord Sterling of Plaistow, the chairman, will no doubt use the results to press the case of the retention of duty-free.

Underlying profits have been bolstered by disposal gains of £71 million. The dividend goes up from 30.5p to 32p.

**NEXT** Last week's gloomy retail figures indicated a further drop in clothing sales and an increase in the level of discounting. So brokers will want some positive comments from Next when it reports final results on Wednesday.

However, BT Alex Brown, the broker, is forecasting a downturn in pre-tax profits from £176 million to £159 million, after costs totalling £3 million relating to the closure of overseas stores. Earnings per share should also be down about 10 per cent at 30.8p.

Despite this the broker is optimistic about prospects in the current year and is looking for a recovery in the group's fortunes.

Changes made last year to buying and merchandising procedures have already made an impact with sales in the eight weeks to December 24 up 17 per cent.

The weak spot remains Next Directory with sales down 2.5 per cent in the 21 weeks to December 24. Overall, Next should have outperformed its main rivals.

The payout will go up to 19p.

**GLYNED INTERNATIONAL** The engineering group is expected to report pre-exceptional pre-tax profits of £78 million to £80 million when final results on are published on Wednesday. This would compare with a profit of £88.8 million in 1997. Despite the downturn brokers expect the dividend to be maintained at 13.2p.

Glywed has been radically reshaping its business and gave warning last October of weaker markets in its consumer and food

service division. Last month it moved closer to completing its corporate restructuring with the sale of most of its metals processing division for £145 million. The group now intends to concentrate on its two core areas of plastic pipe systems and consumer and food service products.

SG Securities, the broker, expects profits to emerge at £78 million. BT Alex Brown has pencilled in profits of £78.1 million, while Charterhouse Tibney is looking for £78 million.

**WEIR GROUP** Fresh from its successful defence of the unwanted 300p share bid from Flowserve, the US group, this month, the Scottish pump manufacturer unveils annual results on Wednesday. Pre-tax profits are expected to be between £62 million and £65 million, compared with

£60.1 million. Analysts expect a rise in the dividend to between 9.7p and 9.9p compared with 9p.

The board must now convince investors that it can deliver value. It will have to make clear its strategic direction and spell out a more aggressive acquisitions policy.

Through the utilisation of its cash balances, the group could spend up to £250 million. But, because of the prospect of a further deterioration in manufacturing in 1999, earnings are expected to come under increasing pressure.

Demand for Weir's products has been declining as the low oil price, weak metal prices and the general slowdown in global markets have restricted profits growth.

**LUCASVARITY** The British automotive parts group is currently the target of a £4 billion agreed

bid from TRW, the US group. The offer closes on Thursday when final results will no doubt attract only passing interest. The group is expected to report full-year pre-tax profits before exceptional items of between £335 million and £350 million. The previous year it achieved a profit of £320 million.

Brokers are forecasting a total dividend of 5p a share, compared with 4.5p last time.

The figures will be largely academic, but analysts will be looking for any signs of weakness in the worldwide automotive markets and gauging how last year's disruption at General Motors affected profitability.

Brokers will also want to establish how the targeted £200 million of cost savings resulting from the merger will be achieved and whether LucasVarity's aerospace division is to be put up for sale. It

could be worth £750 million. Smiths Industries has already expressed an interest.

**MORGAN CRUCIBLE** Few surprises are likely when the industrial ceramics group reports final results today. It issued a profit warning in January. Pre-exceptional pre-tax profits are expected to come in at between £87.5 million and £92 million (£108 million). The total dividend is likely to be held at 15.5p.

The group last week confirmed that it is selling its maintenance, repair and overhaul business for £174 million and outlined plans to buy back shares. It has already indicated that profits should be towards the "better end" of market expectations. Trading since the start of 1999 has been "satisfactory". Some factors that his profits last year have not persisted.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

## Spotlight on prices data

With the Bank of England seemingly still biased towards further rate cuts, analysts will be closely examining this week's economic data for the kind of weakness that might persuade the Bank to act sooner rather than later.

The inflation data on Tuesday will be more confused than usual because the early Budget means a number of tax rises will kick in earlier than last year. Some of the inflationary effects of the tax rises are, however, expected to be offset by falling mortgages and the general downwards trend in inflation. As a result, the City anticipates headline inflation to continue to fall to 2.2 per cent while underlying inflation should return to its target level of 2.5 per cent.

Equal attention is likely to be devoted to the Confederation of British Industry March industrial trends survey which is published on Thursday. The minutes from the last Monetary Policy Committee meeting suggest that a slight improvement in survey evidence tipped the balance towards holding rates steady. Analysts will be waiting to see if the improvement is sustained or whether the renewed climb in the pound suggests the manufacturing sector's recession still has a long way to run.

Today, the third and final estimate of fourth-quarter GDP is published with significant revisions considered unlikely. The quarterly growth rate is expected to remain at 0.2 per cent leaving the annual rate at 1.3 per cent. The current account data is likely to attract more attention with the rapid deterioration in the trade balance expected to tip the whole current account into deficit. Analysts are expecting a deficit of £1.2 billion, compared with a third-quarter surplus of £2.3 billion.

The trade figures, which are released on Wednesday, are also expected to signal that the current account should worsen across this year. City analysts are expecting the global January deficit to widen from £2.2 billion to £2.7 billion while the non-EU deficit should narrow only marginally in February to £2 billion.

Abroad, European data is expected to take centre stage. Although the European Central Bank again decided against a rate cut at its meeting last week, analysts are still hoping that the ECB will cut once the European political situation is a little more stable. Producer prices data published today should show prices registering a fall of 2.5 per cent from the same month last year while the euro-inflation data on Thursday is expected to show inflation unchanged at 0.8 per cent.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Clydeport, Eurocopy, Hay & Robertson. The Observer: Buy British Energy, Epwin, Eurocopy; Sell JD Wetherspoon. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Asda Property Holdings, Eurocopy, Kingfisher, Wellington Underwriting; Sell Aberdeen Asset Management, Financial Objects. Sunday Express: Buy Compco, Hazlewood Foods, Proteus; Hold Epwin, Sun Life & Provincial, JD Wetherspoon. Sunday Business: Buy Rolls-Royce, Caradon, Wimpey.

## Poor using alternative bank system

By ALEXANDRA FREAN AND KAREN WOLFSON

A THRIVING alternative "banking" system based on self-help and thrift is flourishing in the poorest parts of Britain, a new study has found.

The increasingly marginalised band of people who have no bank account, savings or credit cards are being forced to new levels of inventiveness by their continued exclusion from mainstream financial services.

A study into financial exclusion, funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, shows that 1.5 million households (7 per cent) make no use of financial services at all and that 4.4 million (20 per cent) use just one or two.

Claire Whyte, co-author of the report, said that while many people who had no bank account still relied on keeping money in jam jars or envelopes as their main form of saving, other systems had been developed to take advantage of new technology.

Many people who have prepayment cards or prepayment meters from gas or electricity companies "save" money by loading up their cards or meters with more cash than they know they will need to cover their immediate bills.

That way, the money will be there to pay future bills, but they cannot spend it in the meantime.

Many people hoard money by buying more TV stamps than they actually need. Others allow child benefit payments to build

up before claiming it. Others gave cash to a friend who did have an account to look after it. "The idea of all these things is to ensure that there is no cash lying around, which they may be tempted to spend," the report said. The study identified five groups of people who have never made any use of financial services: people who have never had a secure job, the elderly (aged 70 and over) who are part of a cash-only generation and young adults, young single mothers and some minority ethnic groups.

Ms Whyte said that, although the number of people who were financially excluded was falling, those who did not have access to bank and savings accounts were finding life increasingly difficult. "Dealing entirely in cash complicates the process of bill payments, results in charges for cash payments and often increases the costs of basic services, such as fuel."

Ms Whyte said a simple bank account was needed that would not allow an overdraft but would allow people to go into the red for small amounts over a short period without charge.

LINKS

Understanding and Combating Financial Exclusion, by Elaine Kempson and Claire Whyte, Policy Press. Price £12.95.

Working Money, by Elaine Kempson and Claire Whyte, Policy Press. Price £12.95.



McDonald's is rumoured to have been looking at Aroma

## Mövenpick hungry for coffee shop business

By DOMINIC WALSH

MÖVENPICK, the Swiss hotel and restaurant group, is on the prowl for a coffee shop business in the UK after the collapse of a £95 million deal to acquire the Aroma chain.

There were unconfirmed rumours last week that McDonald's, the burger chain, has been casting an eye over Aroma. It would be a change of strategy in the UK for McDonald's, which currently operates only under its own brand.

Mövenpick, which owns the Marché restaurant in Victoria, Central London, has instructed its London-based agent, Berkeley Simmons Davis (BSD), to find a fresh takeover target after its withdrawal from the Aroma deal. It is also keen to establish a hotel presence here.

Elsewhere, Scottish & Newcastle Retail has boosted to 13 its Espresso cafe chain with the acquisition of ten sites in London from Sofra, the Turkish operator, for an estimated £25 million.

## Returns fall in media sector

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

TOP companies in the entertainment and media sectors have seen a substantial decline in their return on capital invested in recent years despite increasing profit margins, according to a new report.

The report by PricewaterhouseCoopers is published today to coincide with a top communications industry conference in London. A study of 30 of the largest entertainment and media groups by Brett Savill and John Studley, the consultants, found that between 1995 and 1997 the return on investment capital declined from 10.2 per cent to 8.3 per cent despite profit margins rising by 7 per cent.

The consultants say that the sales generated by the capital invested fell by 25 per cent — one dollar of capital in 1995 generated 91 cents of sales compared with only 69 cents in 1997.

"In manufacturing parlance, the sector has failed to make its assets sweat," the study argues.

EXCLUSIVE OFFER

THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES



## THE FACTS

Market cap: £4.4 billion.  
Sales: \$5.88 billion (£4.1 billion) in year to last March.  
Operating profit: \$707 million.  
Employees: 48,000.  
Overview: World's fourth-largest brewer by volume; 37 breweries in 18 countries. Brands include Castle, Lion and Lech. Southern Africa's biggest soft drinks group. Also has Southern Sun hotel and gaming arm.

## THE BOARD

Graham Mackay, chief executive since 1996, joined SAB in 1978. He joined the board in 1990, becoming chief operating officer in 1994. Mr Mackay, 49, is also a director of Standard Bank South Africa and Standard Bank Investment Corporation.

The financial director is Nigel Cox, 51. He joined the SAB board in 1990, and was previously managing director of SAB, its international brewing division. Also on the board is Malcolm Wyman, 52, corporate finance and development director.

The non-executive chairman is Meyer Kahn, 59, who has worked for SAB since 1966. He is a former group managing director and has had a previous spell as chairman.

There are five divisional directors. Norman Adams, 44, is managing director of the South African beer division. The SAB group managing director is Gerardus Goedhals, 62. Peter Lloyd, 55, heads up SAB in Europe. The chairman of its beverages arm is Michael Simms, 50, while Ron Stringfellow is chairman of its hotel and gaming division.

The other non-executive directors are Hugh Celliers, Sir Robert Fellows, Michael Levitt, Miles Morland, Cyril Ramaphosa, Lord Rennick of Clifton, and Henry Slack.

SOUTH African Breweries is the Johnny-come-lately of the FTSE 100, having taken its place in the index only this morning together with Enap, Misys and Energis. Yet while SAB becomes the fourth brewer in the FTSE — joining Bass, Whitbread and Scottish & Newcastle — it is a very different animal compared with its rivals, having no ambitions to establish a presence in the UK.

SAB, which gained entry to the stock market after shifting its main listing from Johannesburg to London this month, is the world's fourth largest brewer by volume, behind Anheuser-Busch, Heineken and Miller. SAB intends to exploit its London listing to finance significant expansion internationally and secure an eventual place in the world's top three.

Although the group has been listed in London for more than a century — indeed, its principal listing moved to Johannesburg only in 1970 — its meteoric rise into the FTSE has put the whole issue of the index's make-up firmly in the spotlight. Billionaire, the South African mining group, has been a constituent since 1997, and Old Mutual, the life insurance group, and Anglo American, another mining company, are expected to follow suit shortly. This South African invasion is a coup for London in its battle for global financial supremacy, but it means that the City's tracker funds are having to accept an increasing exposure to what is an emerging market.

Graham Mackay, SAB chief executive, is sensitive to changes that it has deserted South Africa, but is adamant that it was necessary. "We would have languished in South Africa and lost our growth prospects," he said. "There will be a lot of deals in this industry and we either have to take part or be a spectator."

One of the issues that Mr Mackay has had to address in the run-up to the London move is the investment baggage of the past. Johannesburg has long been dominated by big-name players, such as SAB, Anglo American and Genor, which, prevented from investing overseas, took big stakes in each other, making for a notoriously illiquid stock

## CORPORATE PROFILE: SA BEER



SAB is the world's fourth largest brewer, producing the Castle and Lion beer brands. The latter sponsors the Springbok rugby union World Cup holders. Right: A recent share price surge has allayed fears that its FTSE membership might be short-lived, but Graham Mackay, chief executive, left, has a difficult road ahead

market and creating groups with a broad range of investments and businesses. SAB has sought to unwind this situation by selling off non-core businesses ranging from department stores to a shoe manufacturer, but it still has some way to go. It still owns 68 per cent of PG&I, a glass business whose interests include Autoglass, the British windscreen replacement group, although a sale of the stake for about \$200 million (£120 million) is imminent.

The sale would leave SAB a much cleaner vehicle from an investment point of view, although Mr Mackay hinted recently that the group may also end up spinning off Southern Sun, its hotel and gaming arm, which operates 75 hotels and

holdings, they still have an interest through Bevon. SAB's biggest shareholder with 28.5 per cent. Last November Goldman Sachs was appointed to sell Bevon's stake, approaching the likes of Heineken and Interbrew.

"The track record is one of international diversification [with] some degree of success in Africa but a poor record in Central and Eastern Europe. Given the risk that South Africa represents, we think that, at \$50p, it looks 40 to 50 per cent overvalued."

Robert Cumming, drinks analyst, Dresner Kleinwort Benson

"It's clearly a very good company, and over the last five years it has grown earnings by 80 per cent. But a UK investor would have significantly underperformed... due to the currency situation."

Graham Endie, drinks analyst, BT Alex Brown

As part of the listing, which raised £200 million in an initial public offering, Bevon agreed not to sell up before January 2000 without SAB's consent, although the fact that it has failed to strike a deal suggests the price is too high.

There seems little doubt that the company is itself in the market for big acquisitions of its own — a must if it is to retain the interest of the global investment community. The problem is that 76 per cent of its profits are generated in South Africa, with a further 13 per cent coming from sub-Saharan Africa. While SAB dominates its home market, the scope for growth is, inevitably, limited — particularly in the light of the com-

pany's recent economic woes, which have seen the rand almost halve in a year. GDP has shrunk from 3.1 per cent in 1997 to just 1.3 per cent last year, and any valuations of SAB relative to its UK peers have been tarnished by the much higher perceived downside. Its near monopoly status has also been the subject of scrutiny by the South African competition authorities, although an investigation into the company announced in June 1997 has not yet been resolved.

The prospects for growth rest largely with SAB's international brewing arm, which expanded rapidly after the 1994 elections brought South Africa back into the international fold. Last year SAB, which has

operations in several African countries as well as Poland, Spain, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, Russia and China. It clearly has faith in the long-term potential of these markets as much of the £200 million raised is to be invested in its Eastern European operations.

But this exposure has left observers divided. On the one hand, SAB's presence in these emerging markets should bring higher growth prospects. Conversely, the risks are also higher, as evidenced by the recent writedown of most of its \$95 million investment in Russia because of the deteriorating economy. One area in which SAB excels is in ethical expression. Integrity Works found SAB to be "amongst the best of the companies reviewed so far", giving staff access to an "ethics hotline". Its efforts were recognised by last year's award for corporate governance in South Africa.

Although it is still early days — and despite widespread City scepticism — SAB's shares have made a strong start, frothing from a notional 450p based on its Johannesburg price to 570p. But this has to be seen in the context of a dire share performance over the past 12 months, and the short-term squeeze caused by demand from tracker funds. But while the surge has allayed fears that its FTSE membership might be short-lived, Graham Mackay and his colleagues still have a long and difficult road ahead.

DOMINIC WALSH

CORPORATE	
Ethical Expression	8/10
Financial record	8/10
Share performance	8/10
Attitude to staff	7/10
Strength of brand	6/10
Innovation	2/10
Annual report	6/10
City star rating	6/10
Future prospects	5/10
Total	55/100

Ethical expression is measured by Integrity Works. The last category, in which best teamwork pay package scores highest, is provided by Crisp Consulting.

1998/99	High	Low	Mid Cap (millions)	Price	Why	YTD %	P/E	1998/99	High	Low	Mid Cap (millions)	Price	Why	YTD %	P/E	1998/99	High	Low	Mid Cap (millions)	Price	Why	YTD %	P/E	1998/99	High	Low	Mid Cap (millions)	Price	Why	YTD %	P/E
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## Prospects hinge on unemployment

Euro-sceptics are having a good year. After the softness of the euro on the exchanges came the shock resignation of Oskar Lafontaine and then the mass resignation of the European Commissioners. But they should beware. They have now lost some of their best advisers. It is to the economy that they should now be directing their attention, for Europe is approaching a turning point.

Euro-land's consumers are now more confident than they have been for many a long while. Two years ago, consumer spending was barely rising at all, and in the dark days of 1993 and 1994 it actually fell. This year, real incomes are set to rise by some 3 per cent and you could readily envisage consumers increasing their spending at that sort of rate.

So why the anxiety about the European economy and the continued pressure on the ECB to cut interest rates? Because industry is in a very different position. As consumer confidence has risen so business confidence has plummeted. The weakness of international

demand after the crisis in East Asia severely hit exports. The economies of euro-land are by no means all in the same boat. Some are still growing strongly. But German business has suffered particularly badly, owing to its heavy reliance on exports and its high weighting of manufactures, especially capital goods and big ticket consumer goods.

Moreover, the very factors that have helped consumer spending have hit business. Real wages have been rising smartly because of the fall in euro-land inflation. At the latest count (and new figures are due out this week), inflation across the EU is running at 0.8 per cent. In Ireland, and some of the other fast-growing countries, it is a good deal higher, but in Germany, it is only 0.2 per cent.

Admittedly, some of this remarkable inflation performance is due to the benefits of low com-

modity prices which reflect pain felt by producers outside Europe. But a good part is a direct result of the pain experienced by European producers, who are now finding it very difficult to raise prices.

And to that extent there is trouble in store. Rising real incomes do not necessarily bode economic success. Indeed the Depression of the 1930s was accompanied by rising real wages — for those who kept their jobs. In core Europe, real wages are already too high. The fact that they are rising at a time when many companies face serious pressures should be a cause for worry, not celebration.

For companies will adjust to excessive real incomes by reducing employment. It is on this issue that the fate of the euro, and much else besides, will turn. Somehow the gap between the experience of consumers and producers will have to



ROGER BOOTLE

be reduced. One way would be if European consumers aped their American counterparts and reduced their saving in order to finance a serious spending spree. This could create enough of an increase in domestic demand to offset the weakness of world markets. This might then bolster industrial confidence sufficiently to boost investment spending and to forestall

an increase in unemployment. This might then begin a self-feeding process of real recovery.

Recovery could also be bolstered by a further weakening of the euro. This would not only improve European trade performance but it would also help to reduce real wages. This would not, though, have the same effects on the rest of the world. Indeed, it would simply represent another stage in the game, which has been played by a wide variety of countries since 1992, of passing on uncompetitiveness to someone else — with the US picking up the tab. But as the US current account deficit continues to widen and trade tensions increase, this would be an extremely dangerous, and perhaps ultimately self-defeating, way for Europe to achieve recovery.

The other way for the gap between the perceptions of consumers and producers to be reduced

would be for unemployment to increase. This would not only represent a way for companies to adapt to weak demand and high costs but it would also eventually rein in consumer ebullience.

But wasn't the advent of the euro supposedly going to launch a series of supply-side improvements that would enhance prosperity and create jobs? All along, this argument has been a confidence trick. If the euro does indeed succeed in bringing benefits through greater price transparency and an intensification of competition, the short-run effect will be to heighten the difficulties faced by companies and to increase the pressures to shed labour.

Perhaps in the wake of last week's shenanigans, not only will there be a real improvement in the governance of the EU but this will accelerate the pace of reform of the European labour market. The

fact that Europe is so far behind in the reform stakes does give some cause for optimism — the scope for real improvement is enormous. But as experience in Britain, Japan, China and Russia has shown, reform programmes involve an initial period of dislocation during which unemployment is liable to increase sharply.

Perhaps euro-land's consumers will continue to increase spending sharply despite all this gloom about employment prospects. That would not only be good for Europe but it would also see Europe doing its bit for the world economy, thereby easing growing trade tensions with the US. For the result would be a significant increase in Europe's imports and a reduction in its large current account surplus, thereby providing the counterpart to the necessary expansion in net exports from East Asia. Let us hope that this is what happens. My suspicion, though, is that rising unemployment will soon dent the European consumer's new-found optimism.

roger.bootle@capitaleconomics.com

## Railtrack plans £2bn schemes to cut delays

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

RAILTRACK will this week unveil more than £2 billion of new profit-sharing schemes with train companies as part of its plans to cut passenger delays.

A £27 billion package of track and station improvements will mark a shift towards closer links with train operators, with Railtrack being paid according to service improvements.

The largest revenue-sharing project will be a £15 billion scheme to end congestion on the increasingly overworked London to Edinburgh route. Railtrack will undertake the investment but will take a share in future revenue on the route run by Great North Eastern Railway.

Railtrack is to set out details of its plans to remove bottlenecks at Peterborough and Hitchen and improvements at York, Leeds, Edinburgh and Newcastle.

Railtrack is under heavy pressure from ministers to increase its investment after criticism from Chris Bolt, the Rail Regulator, that it has failed to shunt off its "boring utility" role by taking sufficient risks.

The £27 billion spending programme, over ten years, represents a £10 billion increase on

past promises, although it includes money being spent by Railtrack on the £5.4 billion Channel Tunnel rail link.

The company will also announce a range of improvements to provide better services to Britain's major airports, after talks from ministers to develop better public transport links.

About £200 million is to be pumped into the Stansted airport link with London's Liverpool Street station, offering trains every 15 minutes — twice as frequently as at present.

Lines to Manchester and Birmingham airports will also be improved and new links developed between Heathrow and St Pancras station in North London.

The London-to-Brighton line will receive £150 million of improvements, also aimed at easing bottlenecks on the route operated by Connex, the French group.

It is expected that these will include new tracks near Victoria station in London.

The proposals will be revealed in Railtrack's 340-page Network Management Statement, due to be published on Thursday.



Lounge leopard: Clive, the feline smoothie fronting a new advertising campaign being launched today for Schweppes

## Big cat's tonic for you know who

By JASON NISSÉ

CLIVE, a suave leopard who drinks gin and tonic, is to star in a new advertising campaign for Schweppes, the soft drinks group.

The leopard will hold forth on the stresses and strains of life in the Serengeti while cooling off in a cocktail lounge, in a campaign devised by Young & Rubicam, the advertising agency, and launched today.

Schweppes, part of Cadbury Schweppes, hopes that Clive will become as identified with Schweppes as William Franklin, who fronted its "Sch... you know who" campaign in the 1970s and 1980s.

The Clive campaign, which will also run in the US, Australia and New Zealand, uses new technology that makes it appear that the leopard is talking. "It is a pioneering piece of work that is certain to create a huge impact," said Andrew Mann, Schweppes's UK marketing director.

## One-call service by Scoot

Members of the public who call Scoot, the telephone directory service, to find a plumber or an hotel will no longer have to scrawl down the number and make a second phone call.

Scoot has teamed up with Energis, the telecoms network, to provide a new service that will connect inquirers directly to a suitable business.

Businesses will pay Scoot a fee for each "introduction". Scoot, which has slimmed down its sales force from 300 to 160 in anticipation of the change, will also try to sell them calls through Energis.

## Al Fayed denial

Mohamed Al Fayed has denied that he has any intention of selling Harrods, the Central London department store — and has threatened to sue anyone suggesting otherwise. He said that Bernard Arnault, chairman of LVMH, will also deny that his luxury goods company has any designs on Harrods.

## La Glaciere gets film

La Glaciere, a Kenish ice-cream maker, has been given a £1 million cash injection by 3i, the venture capital company. The cash will be used to build a 16,500 sq ft ice-cream factory near Ashford, Kent. In the year to June 1998, La Glaciere's profits were up 51 per cent to £159,000 on sales up 47 per cent to £959,000.

## NFF buys rival

Northumbrian Fine Foods has bought its rival, Ideal Bakeries, for £2.1 million. It has bought the assets of Evans Group and Hafren Wholesale, two insolvent companies where PricewaterhouseCoopers is the administrator.

## Sainsbury's switches £1bn of funds

MERCURY Asset Management, the fund manager owned by Merrill Lynch, has been dealt a massive blow by J Sainsbury, which has completed the withdrawal of £1 billion worth of funds from MAM.

The supermarket group is moving £300 million invested by MAM in UK equities to an index fund run by Hermes Liberty Investment Management,

the tracking fund run by the former Post Office pension scheme. The deal brings the amount of money managed for Sainsbury's by Hermes to £600 million.

The agreement completes the withdrawal of £1 billion of the £1.4 billion Sainsbury's had managed by MAM. What remains is divided between fixed interest and global equities.

Geoff Pearson, pension manager for Sainsbury's, said that the £1 billion had been invested in UK equities and that MAM had lost the mandate because its funds had underperformed the market.

"The withdrawal was gradual in the hope that the performance would improve, but it didn't," Mr Pearson said. The beneficiaries of the

move are not only Hermes but also Legal & General and State Street, the US fund manager. Both are specialists in index-tracker funds.

Sainsbury's pension fund is worth more than £2.5 billion and is now predominantly invested in passive index-tracking funds. MAM has lost a series of high-profile mandates since

the fund manager was bought by Merrill Lynch for £3.1 billion in November 1997.

It was one of the star performers through the late Eighties and early Nineties but, like rivals such as Phillips & Drew, the fund manager, and Gartmore, its brawniest while the market has been rising has seen its performance suffer.

## Go-ahead expected for Lonmin's £1bn merger

By JASON NISSÉ

THE European Court is expected to give a green light this week to a £1 billion merger between Lonmin, the mining company that has just changed its name from Lonrho, and Implats Platinum (Implats), the big South African metals group.

Plans to bring the two platinum companies together have been on the agenda since the early 1990s, when Implats's then owner, Gencor, entered into talks with Lonrho.

The European Commission had ruled that any merger could have created too much concentration in the supply of platinum and palladium, metals used heavily in the car industry, particularly for catalytic converters.

The Commission later ruled that Anglo American, the South African conglomerate, had to reduce the 30 per cent share it took in Lonrho as the battle to control the

platinum market intensified. An appeal was lodged against both decisions. The European Court is set to rule this week — though the Anglo ruling is now out of date as Anglo sold its shares back to Lonmin last year.

However, Sir John Craven, chairman of Lonmin, indicated that the company would be exploring the possibility of a deal with Implats if the regulators allowed it.

## HoF looks at opening City store

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

THE City of London, which has the best-paid workforce in the country but surprisingly few big shops, could at last see a department store opening in its midst.

House of Fraser, which opened its latest store at the Bluewater shopping centre in Kent last week, is talking to at least two property developers about opening a store in the Square Mile.

John Coleman, chief executive, said: "We are in talks with a couple of developers and see the City as one of 25 sites around the country where we'd like to have a store. This comes with the usual health warning about the right site, terms and so on."

King Sturges, the property consultant, is acting on behalf of one developer and has identified a site where it hopes to build a £300 million development containing about 200,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space, with room for 20 smaller units as well as a department store, and office space.

## Opec ministers poised to ratify cuts in oil output

By MARTIN BARROW

OIL markets face a nervous 24 hours as Opec ministers prepare to meet in Vienna tomorrow to ratify an agreement on significant production cuts.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries will be asked to seal an accord reached earlier this month in The Hague for a supply cut of 1.7 million barrels per day (bpd). Non-Opec suppliers have also pledged cuts of almost 290,000 bpd.

Dealers expect the accord to be endorsed by Opec, with some hoping that ministers will be able to extract promises of further production cuts from other Opec nations that have so far refused to assist.

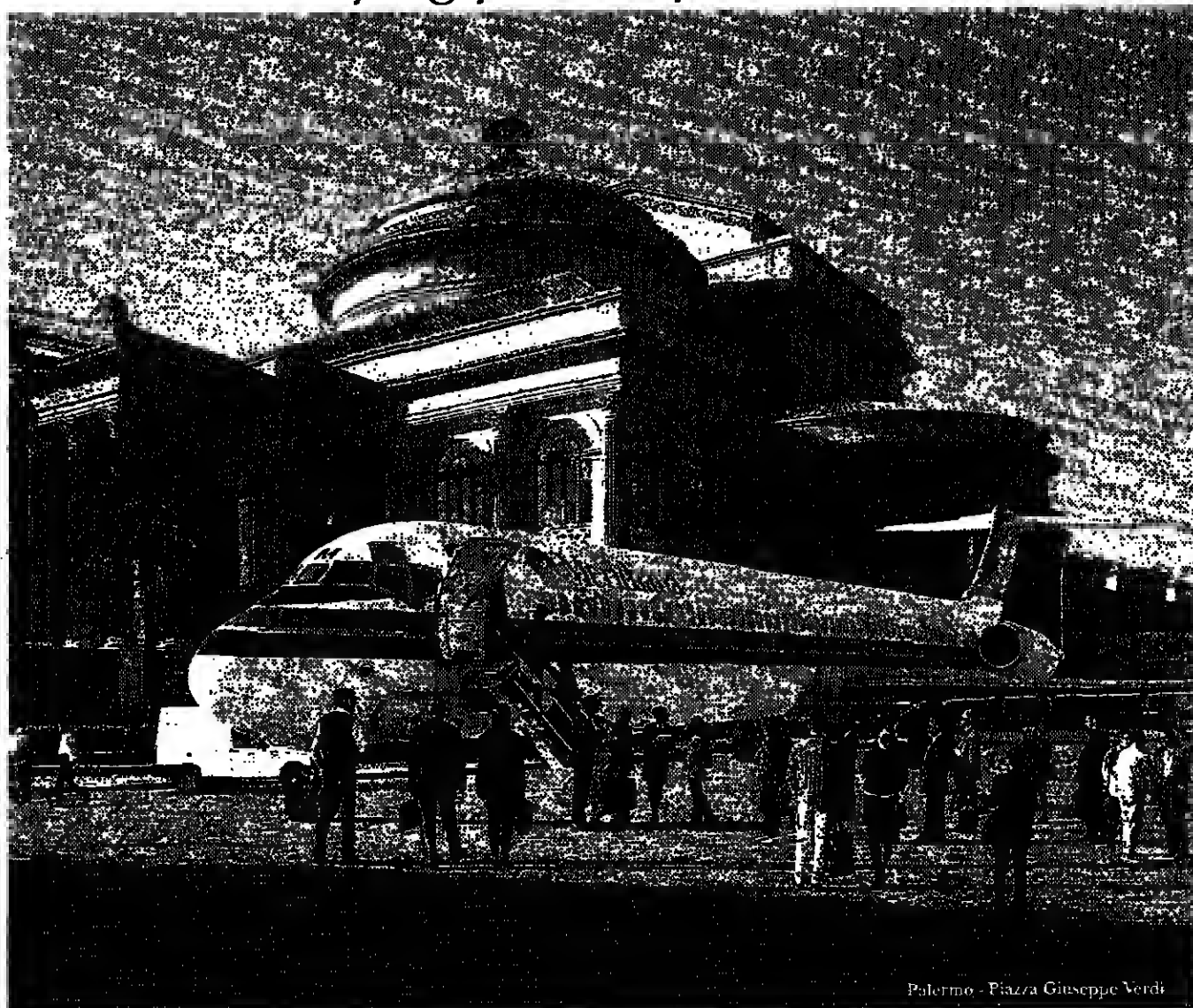
The initial scepticism over the pact made at The Hague may have given way to expectations of higher prices later this year, but oil buyers remain comfortably protected by stockpiles. Traders are now looking

for evidence that restraint will drain a hefty global stock excess, estimated to be as high as 500 million barrels. World markets consume about 75 million barrels per day.

In London, the benchmark Brent futures ended last week at about \$13.36 a barrel, almost 40 per cent above last year's lows of less than \$10. However, prices remain little changed from last year's average of \$13.34, the lowest average for more than 20 years. Low prices are estimated to have cost Opec more than \$50 billion in lost revenue.

The agreement signed in The Hague was led by Saudi Arabia, the world's largest producer, and backed by Algeria and Iran. The Saudis, who produce 8 million bpd, quickly told Far East customers that deliveries would fall by 11 per cent. The deal also involved non-Opec Mexico.

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Protesters at the Crystal Palace site have made common cause with thousands of neighbours who are using the courts to try to halt the developers

## Swampy joins forces with lawyers and insurers

**Anna Minton explores a growing trend among environmental protesters to use changes in our legal set-up to fight developers in Middle England**

Manchester Airport, Costain and Wimpey may have felt the full force of environmental protesters such as Swampy trying to block their construction work by direct action such as tunnelling under the sites. But developers these days are more likely to come up against Storm, the mobile-phone wielding co-ordinator of the largest environmental protest to target commercial property.

The eco-warriors at Big Willow Eco Village in South London — otherwise known as the Crystal Palace site of a proposed 20-screen multiplex and leisure box — are pulling no punches. "Screen 1 — Pollution and Murder, Screen 2 — Corruption and Greed" scream their banners.

But though the eco-warriors, dug into their tunnels, are getting the lion's share of publicity as Bromley council attempts to evict them, it is the unprecedented professional local campaign that is worrying developers and sending a warning light to an industry that is hoping to follow government direction and develop on inner city sites.

A world away from the eco-warriors, in the rarefied atmosphere of the chambers of Anthony Scrivener, QC, is barrister and Bromley resident Philip Kolvin. Mr Kolvin is leading the campaign of "professional resistance" that is taking litigation against the council all the way to the House of Lords.

As a planning barrister Mr

Kolvin is well placed to ferret out every loophole that could block the development. But with 1,500 volunteers working databases and a grid of area co-ordinators and street representatives, it is clear that he is not the only force behind the campaign, which has already taken Bromley to the High Court and the Court of Appeal.

On top of massive local support — one elderly resident pledged £20,000 at a public meeting — the legal campaign is fronted by another barrister, Michael Fordham, currently acting against Augusto Pinochet and Leigh Day, the firm of solicitors, best known for their campaigns to win compensation for Japanese prisoners of war and their unsuccessful battle for compensation for smokers from Gallaher and Imperial, the tobacco companies.

Last month Leigh Day was in the Court of Appeal again, this time representing the Alliance Against the Birmingham Northern Relief Road. "My job is to shake up complacent public bodies which make decisions people don't like," says Richard Stein, a Leigh Day partner.

But local donations, however generous, would hardly be enough to finance such a high-profile legal team, and

here Mr Kolvin reveals his trump card: the Bromley campaign has been underwritten by an insurance company.

A number of insurance companies are now operating in the field of judicial review and one of them was prepared to underwrite a sum relating to our costs; therefore we can afford to take a lot of legal action," he says.

This new breed of insurance companies, described as "first after the event insurers," have sprung up in response to the Access to Justice Bill and the Government's planned reform of legal aid.

Bernard Clark, underwriting director at First Legal Indemnity and a lawyer who worked in the BCCI liquidation, believes that, as a result, insurance will be used more and more in all civil litigation cases with limited risk — including those such as Kolvin's which would not have been eligible for legal aid.

He says: "Environmental protesters with a strong case are a good example of a group of people who will now be able to use insurance to assist them with litigation."

Mr Kolvin agrees that it is the recent changes in the insurance market that have enabled his campaign to take this level

of legal action. "We would never have got legal aid, but now the Government has encouraged the insurance market to pick up the gap left by legal aid there is a new opportunity for this type of litigation," he explains.

But just in case the legal thrust proves insufficient, the campaign is also targeting potential occupiers of the site. Last week letters landed on the desks of cinema operators from Virgin to UCI making it clear that, should the scheme go ahead, the protest, ranging from a local boycott to demonstrations outside operator headquarters, will continue.

Meanwhile, a demonstration in Trafalgar Square and a march on Downing Street are planned for next Thursday.

Not surprisingly the strength of feeling has affected London & Regional, the developer, which has lost more than £1 million as a result of the judicial review which held up the granting of detailed permission.

Initially, the scheme was supposed to be completed by March next year. Now, Jim O'Donnell, the project manager, hopes to be on site by September, assuming that the council evictions go according to plan.

But although he believes that the £58 million scheme, which has now received detailed permission, will go ahead, he accepts that there is a risk that the campaign may yet succeed. And he adds that had he known at the outset what he knows now he would have had second thoughts.

"It's been a very painful process, for all sides. The campaigners are professional, they're thoughtful and they do have legal counsel," says Mr O'Donnell.

Worryingly for the industry he feels the "professional resistance" seen at Crystal Palace is not unique and will be replicated around the country. "We're going to see this again and again. It will be used to the detriment of progress and the implications for property companies will be cost penalties and loss of interest," he says.

And he's not the only one who is becoming increasingly concerned. Nigel Smith, chairman of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' land use panel says: "We're going to see more eco-dwells and middle class 'I know my rights' people targeting high-profile sites

and becoming a damned nuisance or local heroes depending on the circumstances.

The whole planning process is pretty negative. This is one more thing developers will have to contend with. If you know you're going to be facing it, you probably won't get involved."

Another indication of the increase in professional resistance is the rise of "planning lobbyists", employed by developers and local authorities to ensure that controversial applications have the best chance of success. Jenny Marshall, of Camargue, the planning lobbyists, describes her work as "piecing together the jigsaw puzzle of local reaction".

The schemes that arouse the most effective local opposition are the superstore applications which now virtually expect to have local communities mobilised against them. Earlier this year Tesco tried to win planning permission to build on a disused site in Clapham South but came up against a local campaign, which produced a traffic impact study to block the application.

"We find out who the key groups are, who the key players are on the council and if branches of environmental groups such as Friends of Earth are active in the area," Ms Marshall explains.

For a sector that hardly existed a few years ago, planning lobbying — presuming it escapes the taint of its Westminster cousin — looks likely to be a growth area. "We're getting more work every year as sites get harder and harder to develop and the opposition becomes more sophisticated," she says.

Stuart Robinson, planning partner with Hillier Parker, the surveyor, has also found his clients increasingly concerned about local reactions. "This comes through when end users are comparing sites. The companies we deal with are concerned as much with public image as with the value of a site."

"It's frightening, but these protests will continue. We've all got to look at brownfield sites now and they've got problems. Protest has had an impact on road building. It's going to have an impact on city centre sites as well as residential development," he says.

Which means the unlikely alliance between the eco-warriors and Middle England, forged over the roads protests, looks set to continue, this time with property in the firing line.

### TELEVISION CHOICE

## Rewriting naval history

**To the Ends of the Earth**  
Channel 4, 8pm

We all know the story of the sadistic Captain Bligh and how Fletcher Christian and the sailors on the *Bounty*, under his command, set him adrift in an open boat while they sailed on with their Tahitian women to discover and settle Pitcairn Island. That was in 1790. Today the island is sparsely populated with descendants of that voyage — including Christian's great, great, great grandson Tom, who believes, with good reason, that his ancestor died in a massacre there around 1793. So much for the received wisdom that he died having escaped to Europe. Dr Martin Gibbs and a team of Australian archaeologists go digging — not just into old journals and logbooks but under the soil and rocks of Pitcairn itself. Their astonishing account of what really happened rewrites the history books.

**Cutting Edges: Playing for England**  
Channel 4, 9pm

No, not football but brass. This is the story of how nine Sheffield Wednesday fans got together to form a brass band. Eight lads and one girl, with trumpets tooting, trombones sliding and drums thudding, were chosen to accompany the England team to France last summer for the World Cup. Sponsored by *The Sun*, they had free flights, match tickets and expenses paid. They couldn't believe their luck. They came the riots in Marseilles, England's failure to win key matches, and grumbles of dissent could be heard in the band. "One minute you're right up there, the next you're nothing," says band member Jimmy, sadly.

**Kavanagh QC: Time of Need**  
ITV, 9pm

Andy de la Tour's script does not, for a change, kick the courtroom series into overdrive with a violent opening. It merely begins with the re-election of a Labour MP (Penelope Wilton), a career politician destined for great things in the Home Office. What makes this excellent episode



**Playing for England** follows the official supporters' band to France '98 (C4, 9pm)

the more chilling is that it reflects possible police connivance in "getting even" with a campaigning liberal who has been critical of them while in office. Now they seem out to disgrace her by accusing her of sexual assault on a juvenile 16 years ago. The cards are stacked against her when the lad, now adult, gives his evidence in court. Kavanagh (John Thaw) advises her to drop the case but she refuses.

**You Cannot Be Serious**  
BBC2, 9.30pm

A new series for Alexei Sayle which looks at some of the funniest television sketches as they relate to specific scenes. Tonight it's war with the irrepressible Alexei commencing on the likes of *Dad's Army*, *It Ain't Half Hot Mum* and *Allo 'Allo*. Not all slapstick of course — there were genuinely inspirational sketches in *Blackadder*, *The Two Ronnies* and *Monty Python*. "War wasn't really good for very much," Sayle concludes. "But it certainly provided some cracking TV comedy." All very well, of course — until you realise that later this week another new series (*Laughter in the House*) begins on the BBC. About the history of the British sitcom. Elizabeth Cowley

### RADIO CHOICE

**Around the World**  
Radio 4, 9.45am

The World is the first international literature festival to be staged in London and Radio 4 is giving it plenty of airtime this week, which is exactly what a public service broadcaster ought to be doing. *Around the World* runs every morning, preceded today by a special edition of *Start the Week*. *Around the World* features new work by a different writer each day, starting today with *My Journey to Spain* by Gitta Sereny, well known to readers of *The Times* for the serialisation of her book about Mary, Queen of Scots. Doris Lessing, her Soynka, Ariel Dorfman and Jan Morris are also contributing stories. *Book at Bedtime* (10.45pm) this week features five festival writers, starting tonight with *Angel on the Hoof* by Shirley Hughes.

**RADIO 1 (BBC)**

6.30am Zoe Ball 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whitey 2.00pm Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newbeat 8.00 Dave Pearce 8.00 Lamacz Live. Featuring Kula Shaker in concert from Wolverhampton 12.00 The Breakfast 2.00am Emma B 4.00 Chris Ware

**RADIO 2 (BBC)**

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05 Johnnie Walker 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 8.00 Big Band Special 8.30 Joe's Holland 9.30 Mark Lomas: Shakes, Rattle and Roll (8/10) 10.30 Richard Ainsworth 12.00 Kishka Leskarch 3.00am Mo Duts

**RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)**

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast with Julian Winkler and Victoria Derbyshire 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News 1.00pm Race and Go 4.00 Drive with Peter Mann and Jane Garry 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Dream Team: Hysteria, author of *The Glory Game*, talks about his time as a Tottenham Hotspur supporter 8.00 Teenage Fan Club. An opportunity for young football fans to voice their opinions about the modern game 10.00 Late Night Live 1.00am Up All Night

**TALK RADIO**

5.00am The Big Boys Breakfast 9.00 Scott Chisholm & Sally James 12.00 Let's Talk Soap 1.00pm Anna Rafter 4.00 The Sports Zone 7.00 Under the Post 8.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins

**VIRGIN**

5.30am Chris Evans 8.30 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Hamel Scott 6.45 Pete and Geoff 10.00 Gary Davies 1.00am Richard Allen 4.30 Phil Kennedy

**RADIO 3**

6.00am On Air Presented by Penny Gore 6.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobbiey 10.30 Artist of the Week: The Labèque Sisters 11.00 Sound Stories: Islander Richard Baker explores the influence of Java and Bali on western music 12.00 Composer of the Week: Franz Schubert 1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Live from the Wigmore Hall. Joseph Kalichstein, piano 2.00 The BBC Orchestra BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Greville Llewellyn and Tadaaki Otaka 4.00 Opera in Action Robert Lloyd takes a personal look at what being a singer actually means 4.45 The Influence of Java and Bali on western music 5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty is joined by the young American baritone Nathan Gunn 7.30 Performance on 3: Composer Portrait — Frederick Delius (*Sounding the Century*) Lisa

**RADIO 4**

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 5.47 Farming Today Presented by Charlotte Smith 6.00 Today with James Naughtie 9.00 Start the Week: Radio 4 at The World 9.45 (FM) Serials: *Around the World* See Choice 9.45 (LW) Daily Service 10.00 Women's Hour with Martha Kearney and guests 11.00 Tuning Into Children Last in series (Rt) 11.30 King of the Bitch Comedy by Andy Evans (Rt) 12.00 (LW) News Headlines: Shipping Forecast 12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours 1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke 1.30 Counterpoint First of the music quiz 2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (Rt) 2.15 Afternoon Play: Sunday Morning at the Centre of the World Louis de Serres's tale 3.00 Money Box Live: 0970 010 0444 3.30 The New Recruit (1/5) (Rt)

5.00am Nick Bailey's Easy Breakfast. Favourite musical works, plus regular information updates 8.00 Henry Kelly, The Hall of Fame Hour and CD of the Week 12.00 Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones presents listeners' requests 2.00pm Concerto: Dohnanyi (*Konzertstück* for Cello and Orchestra) 3.00 Michael Mapson, Continuous Classics and Allomom Romanos 6.30 Newswatch. John Burrell presents the latest news 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. Two hours of soothing sounds 8.00 Evening Concert. Sinding (*Rustle of Spring*, Copland (*Appalachian Spring*), Haydn (*The Seasons*, Spring), Shostakovich (*The Fire of Spring*), Gurney (*Desire in Spring*) 11.00 Mann at Night. Wind down with the sound of ambient music 2.00am Concerto. Dohnanyi (*Konzertstück* for Cello and Orchestra) (Rt) 3.00 Mark Griffiths with the Easy Breakfast Show

**RADIO 5**

3.45 This Spectred Isle Part 56 (Rt) 4.00 The Food Programme with Derek Cooper (Rt) 4.30 Turning World with Janni Murray and guests 5.00 PM Presented by Chris Lowe and Clare English 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Just a Minute 7.00 The Archers 7.15 Front Row 7.45 The Cry of the Bittern Broadcasts earlier (Rt) 8.00 Men in Black (2/3) 8.30 Analysis with Bridget Rosewell 9.00 Nature Nick Baker celebrates the arrival of spring 9.30 Start the Week: Radio 4 at The World (Rt) 10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Radio 4 at The World — Angel on the Roof See Choice 11.00 Late Night on 4: Music of Fusion 11.30 (FM) Crossing Over (Rt) 11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Political news 12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book (Rt) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 AM World Service

**FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.5-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8. LW 198. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 683, 908. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648. LW 156 (12.45-6.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8. MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Penny Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Macey, Jane Gregory and Barry O'Keefe**

### WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 37

#### FEASANCE

(a) The doing or execution of a condition, obligation, feudal service, etc. And adaptation of the Anglo-French *feance*. "Under this term [Civell] were comprehended all Socage Services whatsoever which lie in Render or Feasance."

#### GRADUS

(a) Short for *Gradus ad Parnassum* "a step to Parnassus", the Latin title of a dictionary of prosody until recently used in English public schools, intended as an aid in Latin versification, both by giving the quantities of words and by suggesting poetical epithets and phraseology. Hence applied to later works of similar plan and object. You can also have a Greek *Gradus*. Hughes, *Tom Brown*, 1857: "The three fell to work with Gradus and dictionary upon the morning's vulgar."

#### FITFEN

(c) An untruth, a lie, an invention. The suggestion that it is a corruption of *fiction* is inadmissible. The form coincides curiously with the corruption of Latin *pythion* found in various Teutonic languages. "Others of them may well be deemed fitfens of his own framing."

#### GRISON

(b) A carnivorous quadruped of South America, *Galictis vittata*, belonging to the family *Mustelidae*, and thus allied to the glutton and marten. Apparently related to similar words meaning grey. Both animals are grey.

#### SOLUTION TO THE WINNING MOVE

1 Qxf: B2 Bxf8 Rxf8. 3 Rxf7? Kxf7: 4 Rxf8 and mates.

### CHANGE ON WEEK

#### THE POUND

US Dollar

1.6292 (-0.0046)

Euro

0.6707 (-0.0009)

Exchange Index

102.8 (-0.3)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

#### STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share

3753.4 (-79.4)

FTSE 100

6163.2 (-119.0)

New York Dow Jones

9903.55 (+27.2)

Tokyo Nikkei Ave

16378.78 (+889.92)

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# Comedy, community and that man Clary

A woman's comedy is like a fish riding on a bicycle," says Dr Johnstone, who has said, "It is not done well, but you are surprised to find it done at all." And if he had said it, he would have been justly wrong.

It was surprising that so much of the pre- and post-*Smack the Pony* (Channel 4, Friday) celebrated the arrival (at last) of a bunch of funny women doing really funny women's material, really too much help from the guys. Have Victoria Wood and her ensemble, French and Saunders, Ab Fab, Mrs Merton and the contributions of the likes of Kathy Burke, Arabella Weir or Rebecca Front to male-dominated shows all passed unnoticed? The title sequence did include an allusion to that old feminist saying "a woman needs a man like a fish needs a bicycle." But it was an allusion of a fish riding a bicycle, which suggests that fish

actually do have a use for bicycles, and thus undermines the point of the proverb. I have no idea if this was deliberate or not, but *Smack the Pony* is hardly a feminist diatribe. Nor is it strikingly original in its ribbing of female follies and preoccupations (see the list above for precursors).

The style is fantastically oblique and underplayed. Most of the items were so much sketches as fragments without build-up or punchlines. In the spare, minimalist style, which evolved out of the fragmentary *Fast Show* via the subtler nuances of *Big Train*.

*Smack the Pony* is not remarkable for being female; its range of material is not that original, and its style, though neat, is not pioneering. None of which matters two hoots, because the show is very clever, often surprising and extremely funny.

Some of it is just plain silly, in

the puerile sort of way beloved of young Nineties women. A belching female dentist (should that be "dentist"?), and her also belching assistant, for heaven's sake. I particularly liked the serious swimmer, doing her demanding - poolside - warm-up exercises before belly-flopping off the starting block and launching into an inept doggy-paddle. A lot of it was about female competition and disguised aggression.

The factory workers, on teabreak up, also sat while singing along to Nilsson's *Without You* until both are in full operatic flood. Two girls in a club too apply ever-widening bands of lipstick until they both resemble Coco the Clown and leave looking quietly pleased with themselves. But there were no real themes or social messages. This was just a bunch of stuff the three performers happened to find



funny. And mostly they were right. BBC's Saturday night schedule was dominated by heavyweight documentaries about Third World issues. Western interference in developing countries and racist politics in Europe (Brian Barron on the crisis in the Kenyan Wildlife Service for *Correspondent*, *Cold War* on US interventions in Latin America and two programmes in the *Fear and Loathing* series on

racism). So what was that sassy chick from the Boddingtons adverts doing presenting a programme about Southall, London's biggest and most thriving Asian suburb? In the event, the *Big Breakfast* reporter and former model (most famous for telling Tarquin he had his "trolley" on wrong way round) proved to be a rather effective choice. Melanie Sykes herself is one quarter Indian, in that her mother was an Anglo-Indian from Rajasthan. This was enough to get her called "Paki" at school and to implant a vague sense of affinity with Asian life. Going to Southall was a roots thing, a pilgrimage to discover a lost heritage, about which she knew surprisingly little. To her bustling suburb was, literally and metaphorically, "Indian Territory". She took us from Ramadani Eid with the Chaudhrys, early Muslim arrivals who started the first Indian restaurant on the

Broadway, and now run a small chain. We learnt about the early struggles of labour and battles with the National Front, went shopping for clothes and jewellery, visited clubs, supermarkets and factories and went cruising with the lads.

The difficult issues were touched on and left. A pre-existing white community, however monochrome and dull, upped sticks and left. An elderly white resident recalled how 14 families had left her road in quick succession. We met teenage Asian girls despoiling their parents in their quest for a good time, and learnt, briefly, that domestic violence has been a persistent problem. There is a worrying growth in fundamentalist gangs from the three main religious groups, which could lead to inter-ethnic strife. Sykes did not ask about the position of Anglo-

Indians, who, I understand, can be isolated and despised on the subcontinent. But then the rest of the schedule was packed with such hand-wringing, so this upbeat, sympathetic portrait of community life made a refreshing change.

Following the rocketing success of *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?*, ITV has hit us with a newly revived game show called *Who Wants A Weekend In Brussels?* Sorry, that's wrong. It's actually called *Mr and Mrs With Julian Clary* (ITV, Friday). But contestants can win up to £600 ("Ooh!" the audience). A Julian Clary toilet seat ("Ooooooh") or a weekend in Europe ("Uuuuuh"). The first couple failed to get to Florence, but didn't seem to mind. In fact, I suspected they had never heard of the place. The second couple missed out on Brussels, but they didn't look bothered either. Clary ended with spiky double entendres, but even he looked bored.

## REVIEW

Paul Hoggart

### BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (78938)
- 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (14667)
- 9.00am The Big Breakfast (12367)
- 9.00am The English Programme (1972939) 9.25 Schools at Work (846948) 9.30 Geography Junction (858803) 9.45 Book Box (858138)
- 10.10am The Vanessa Show (1721790)
- 10.55am News: Weather (1) (3877377)
- 11.00am Change That (388775)
- 11.25am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (3784613)
- 11.55am News: Weather (1) (7735551)
- 12.00am Call My Bluff (85006)
- 12.30pm Wipeout (4182026)
- 12.55pm The Weather Show (1) (5345220)
- 1.00pm O'Clock News (1) (17754)
- 1.30pm Regional News: Weather (5201984)
- 1.40pm Neighbours (1) (3631342)
- 1.45pm Inrolde (1) (5635087)
- 2.55pm Through the Keyhole (1) (2658862)
- 3.25pm Children's BBC: Playdays (6106894)
- 3.45pm Podge Dragon (526273) 3.55pm Podge and Badger (555687) 4.10pm Anthony Ant (5791261) 4.30pm Missy Goss (3555087) 5.00pm Newsround (447613) 5.10pm Blue Peter (9134700)
- 5.35pm Neighbours (1) (3811822)
- 6.00pm O'Clock News: Weather (1) (241)
- 6.30pm News Magazine (551)



The triple jumper Jonathan Edwards joins the sports quiz (7pm)

- 7.00pm A Question of Sport: Jonathan Edwards, Wil Carling, David Batty and Mark Ramprakash join Ally McCoist and John Paton (1) (648)
- 7.30pm Watchdog: Healthcheck. Ailsa: Bar-assessor a new herbal collagen pill which has proved popular in Australia (1) (735)
- 8.00pm EastEnders (1) (2416)
- 8.30pm Mrs Merton and Malcolm Sittom with Caroline Aherne (5/6) (1) (8603)
- 9.00pm Nine O'Clock News: Regional News: Weather (1) (7667)
- 9.30pm Jailbirds: New inmate Melissa visits the prison chaplain (1) (32336)
- 10.00pm Panorama: A report, examining allegations that American agents used United Nations cover in an operation to target Saddam Hussein (1) (37174)
- 10.40pm Animal Police: A distressed duck is rescued (1) (86464)
- 11.10pm Harbour Lights: A leisure development is threatened by pollution (1) (77690)
- 12.00pm The Cover: Girl Murders (1993) Six fashion models are stalked by a killer. Mystery thriller, starring Les Manville and John O'Hara. Directed by James A. Conner (1) (857456)
- 12.55pm Weather (1) (862956)
- 1.30pm BBC News 24 (3410323)

### SKY DNE

- 7.00pm Court Duckies (5048) 7.30pm The Chris Evert Show (13754) 8.00pm Hollywood Squares (2320) 8.30pm Sally Jessy Raphael (2327) 10.00pm The Oprah Winfrey Show (55174) 11.00pm The Tonight Show (55174) 11.30pm The Late Show (55174) 12.00pm The Tonight Show (55174) 12.30pm The Tonight Show (55174) 1.00pm The Tonight Show (55174) 1.30pm The Tonight Show (55174) 2.00pm The Tonight Show (55174) 2.30pm The Tonight Show (55174) 3.00pm The Tonight Show (55174) 3.30pm The Tonight Show (55174) 4.00pm The Tonight Show (55174) 4.30pm The Tonight Show (55174) 5.00pm The Tonight Show (55174) 5.30pm The Tonight Show (55174) 6.00pm The Tonight Show (55174) 6.30pm The Tonight Show (55174) 7.00pm The Tonight Show (55174) 7.30pm The Tonight Show (55174) 8.00pm The Tonight Show (55174) 8.30pm The Tonight Show (55174) 9.00pm The Tonight Show (55174) 9.30pm The Tonight Show (55174) 10.00pm The Tonight Show (55174) 10.30pm The Tonight Show (55174) 11.00pm The Tonight Show (55174) 11.30pm The Tonight Show 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## PROFILE 44

SAB is king of the Castle in brewing

# BUSINESS

## JOBS FEAR 45

Roger Bootle on employment and euroland



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY MARCH 22 1999

## Rival suitors await Gucci decision

BY FRASER NELSON

THE board of Gucci was last night locked in talks to choose between a \$5 billion (£3 billion) takeover bid from Bernard Arnault, chairman of LVMH, or a \$3 billion cash injection from François Pinault, his arch-rival.

Domenico De Sole, chief executive of Gucci, called a full board meeting in Amsterdam at lunchtime yesterday. The meeting went on into the night.

The company has provisionally agreed to M. Pinault's deal, which would involve the creation of enough new Gucci shares to give the French billionaire a 40 per cent stake.

M. Arnault has said that he will launch an \$85-a-share bid only if Gucci rejects the Pinault deal immediately.

Signor De Sole is understood to be arguing that Gucci should reject M. Arnault's offer. He is trying to persuade his fellow board members that Gucci would lose its creative freedom as part of LVMH's vast luxury goods stable — which includes Kenzo, Christian Dior and Christian Lacroix.

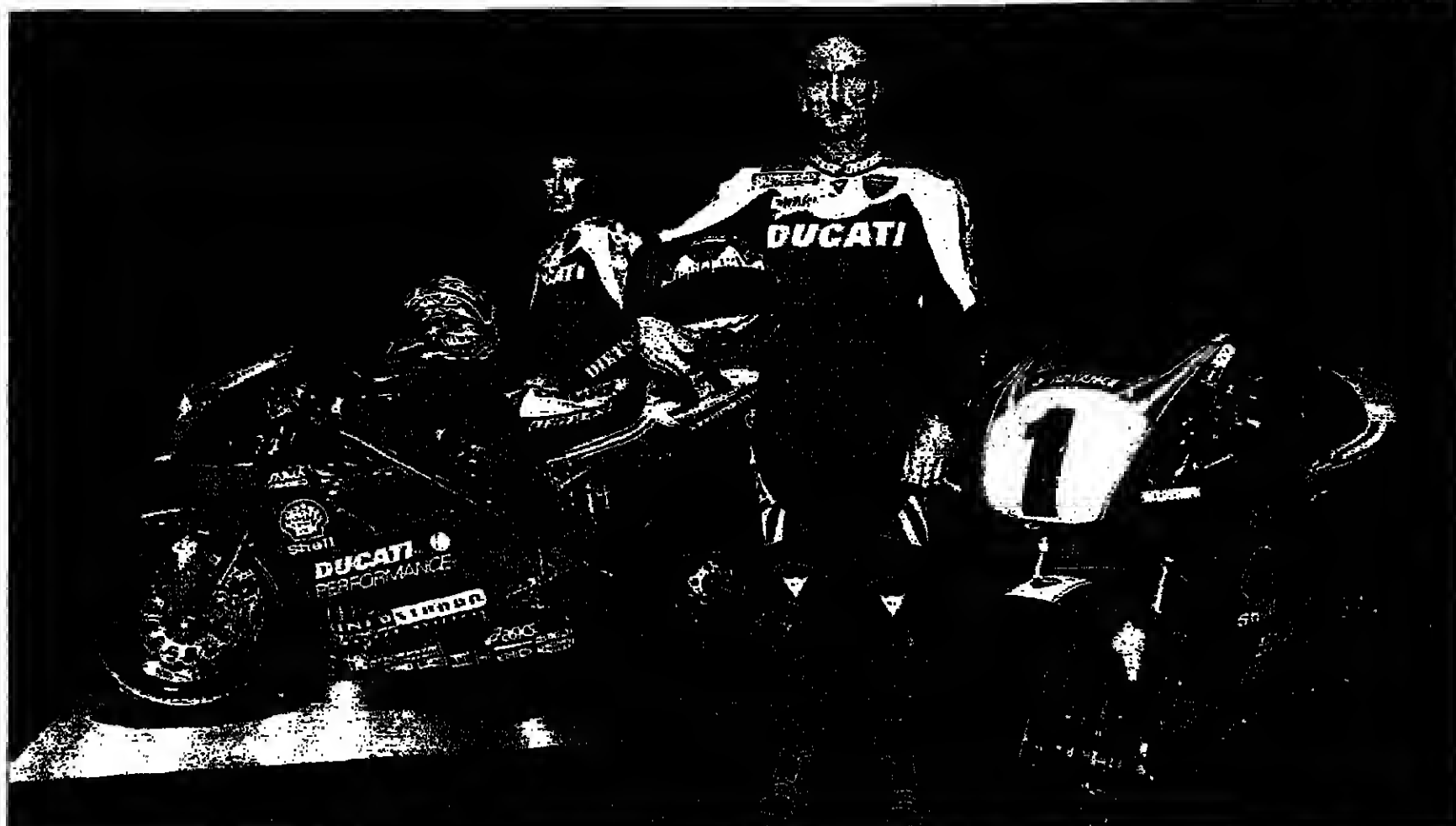
This would force M. Arnault into making an unconditional hostile bid. At present, LVMH has made a written proposal, but this stops well short of a takeover offer.

If LVMH were to make the bid hostile, M. Pinault would be free to counter with his own offer for the whole company.

Although the \$85-a-share offer values Gucci at more than double its level in October last year, observers believe that M. Arnault will pay over the odds to stop M. Pinault starting a rival fashion empire.

M. Pinault, whose PPR retail empire is capitalised at about the same level as LVMH, has spent £616 million buying Sanofi's perfume empire — which includes Yves Saint Laurent brands.

PPR would give this, at cost price, to Gucci as a "wedding present" to help it to start a new fashion empire that could rival LVMH.



Riding high: Carl Fogarty, standing, with team-mate Troy Corser, is reigning Superbike champion. Ducati will hope for similar success when the company floats

## Ducati clocks up \$497m tag for flotation

DUCATI, the Italian motorbike manufacturer rescued from near-collapse three years ago, has been given a \$497 million (£303 million) price tag for its forthcoming flotation on the New York Stock Exchange (Fraser Nelson writes).

Investors led by David Bordenman, the American financier who recently took a stake in GPA, the aviation group, will make a \$68 million profit from the flotation — only two and a half years after bailing out the company.

They will receive £140 million in cash and retain £103 million shares in Ducati. They took control with £72 million of equity in 1996.

The flotation will be another milestone in the chequered history of Ducati, which started life as a family engineering company 72 years ago.

The success of its motorbikes was followed by a sharp financial decline and the company was sold by the Italian Government to Claudio and Gianfranco Castiglioni for about £3 million in 1983. The brothers invested heavily but this left the company almost bankrupt in 1996.

The flotation will raise £33 million for the company, which will be used to repay debt.

Carl Fogarty, the British motorcyclist and reigning Superbike champion, is signed to Ducati.

## British firms face tax threat in US

BY JASON NISSE

A RADICAL US tax proposal that could come into force as early as next month could cost British companies hundreds of millions of dollars of extra taxes and leave them open to punitive fines.

The move is an attempt by the Clinton Administration to clamp down on corporate tax shelters in a move it says would raise the US Government \$7.2 billion (£4.5 billion) over five years.

The proposals could also hit British-based lawyers, accountants and investment bankers who help to set up tax-efficient structures for European companies that own businesses in the US.

It is potentially as large a

threat to the City as the proposed European Union withholding tax, which has been the subject of fierce lobbying from the City over the past few weeks.

The City is concerned that the withholding tax could damage the £2,000 billion a year eurobond market. However, it is understood that the Treasury is working on a compromise with the European Commission that would remove eurobonds from the scope of the withholding tax.

The new US proposals were briefly mentioned in the Federal Budget, which was announced by Bill Clinton last month. However it will be formally brought into force when it is "marked up" by the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee or the Senate Finance Committee. This is expected next month.

The proposals will not be debated or finalised until later

this year but the marking-up process means they will be brought into force from the date they are marked up.

The complex proposals essentially outlaw any corporate structure designed to minimise US taxes. These include the setting-up of non-resident middle companies to take advantage of double-taxation treaties — The Netherlands is a favoured location for British companies buying US businesses — the setting-up of joint ventures, certain forms of transfer pricing within a company and the liquidation of US holding companies to avoid a tax bill.

The law would allow the US Government not only to outlaw what it defines as "corporate tax shelters" or "tax avoidance transactions" but also would allow it to charge a 25 per cent "excise tax" on fees received by a financial adviser working on such tax minimisation

proposals. The hardest hit by this excise tax could be accountancy firms. All the top five accountants heavily market tax minimisation plans to be used by UK companies buying in the US.

The move could cause widespread uncertainty in the tax-planning community," said Stephen Fiamma, a London-based partner of Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue, the US law firm. Mr Fiamma believes that the proposals may face strong opposition in the US, but that the Democrats may see hitting big business, and especially foreign business, as a vote winner.

The UK is the largest foreign investor in the US and British companies have more investment in the US than in any other country.

LINKS  
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## Byers may agree to lift Rover aid

BY ADAM JONES

STEPHEN BYERS, the Trade and Industry Secretary, may be willing to increase the £118 million aid package offered to BMW to secure the future of Longbridge, the Rover car plant in Birmingham.

The original offer was made before a BMW board meeting last week and, though it has not yet been rejected, it is understood to fall well short of what the Bavarian carmaker had requested.

A Department of Trade and Industry spokeswoman yesterday said that it was up to BMW to make the next move: "We are just waiting for BMW to approach us. They haven't formally said no to the offer."

BMW had been looking for more than £180 million in grant aid to help to fund development and production of a new range of cars to replace the Rover 200 and 400 models. The new cars would be built at

Longbridge, Britain's largest car plant, securing 50,000 jobs in the region. In return, BMW was offering to invest about £1.7 billion at Longbridge, tearing down the old factory and building a new one.

There were suggestions at the weekend that the DTI had wanted to offer more than £118 million but was restrained by the Treasury, either through a reluctance to spend that much on subsidy or a desire to create a tougher bargaining position.

The DTI spokeswoman said yesterday: "I am not aware of any row with the Treasury or that the Treasury has stopped us from doing anything."

Mauro Schuch, the vice-chairman of BMW's supervisory board, said the board had been ready to approve the Longbridge investment on Thursday, if the grant offer had been near £200 million.

Tony Woodley, a veteran un-

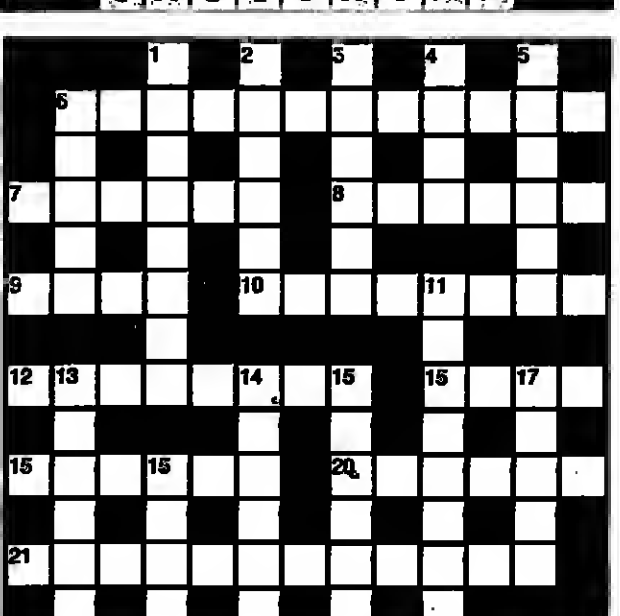
ion negotiator in the car industry, gave warning that the plant could be closed simply because of a misunderstanding in the high-pressure talks.

The aid on offer is thought to be available only through phased payments. The Government has said that productivity and training improvements must be made at Rover.

BMW has threatened to take the work to Hungary, to benefit from cheaper labour. There has even been talk in Germany of the new models being built in the US using excess capacity at BMW's plant in Spartanburg, South Carolina. This is unlikely given that the new models would be primarily for European markets.

BMW says Rover lost £645 million in 1998 because of the strong pound and provisions for 2,500 job cuts. This has led to Rover being dubbed "The English Patient" in Germany.

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1671

## ACROSS

- 6 Giving an assurance (12)  
7 Angry outcry (6)  
8 (Design) set into surface (6)  
9 Competition: group of people (4)  
10 Action involving new point of law (4,4)  
12 Canvass personally: thick slice of bread (8)  
16 Rapidly narrows current: ginger root (4)  
18 Little spasm: temporary difficulty (6)  
20 Phish fabric: antler cover (6)  
21 Say (word) wrong (12)

## DOWN

- 1 Wrecker (8)  
2 Natural skill (6)  
3 Moral principles (6)  
4 Calf meat (4)  
5 Is jealous (6)  
6 Yellow-rind cheese (5)  
11 George IV's queen (8)  
13 Father of Horus (Egypt. myth) (6)  
14 Walk delicately, silently (6)  
15 Russian dog-reflex scientist (6)  
17 Cheshire town: sounds like operators (5)  
19 Egyptian Christian (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1670  
ACROSS: 1 Lake 3 Mercator 9 Synge 10 Blacken  
11 Exalted 12 Lute 14 Anoint 16 Decent 18 Scam  
19 Absalom 22 Prussia 23 Zonal 24 Set/aside 25 Teas  
DOWN: 1 Las Vegas 2 Kangaroo court 4 Emboidy  
5 Charlie 6 Take the plunge 7 Rank 8 Heat 13 Stimulus  
15 Nemesis 17 Canard 20 Size 21 Opus

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## It's Hardern ... on to Hoddle ...

BY FRASER NELSON

MICHAEL HARDERN, the self-proclaimed king of Britain's carpetbaggers, has given up his pursuit of the Nationwide and Britannia building societies — and has asked Glenn Hoddle to take his place.

Mr Hardern believes the former England football coach will stand in as a candidate for Nationwide's board because it played such an active role in his downfall after Mr Hoddle ran into trouble when he made comments about the disabled and reintegration.

Mr Hardern told *The Times* yesterday: "The Nationwide told Hoddle in. They spent £15 million on sponsoring the England team without asking their members, and then they made sure he lost his job."

He intends to contact Mr Hoddle through Eileen Drewery, the faith healer he met at a book signing last month.

His decision to retire comes amid allegations that he was caught rifling through the Prince of Wales's private letters when serving as a butler.

This is only one of many blows to Mr Hardern's campaign. Last year he was photo-



Hoddle: possible substitute

graphed in a Britannia branch wearing a sarong. He said: "I think I've been getting up the noses of the Carpetbaggers' Association. I think they doubt my credibility."

The Britannia has already printed 12 million board nomination forms with Mr Hardern's name on them.

Mr Hardern said: "I have no chance at the Britannia: if I get elected they will chuck me out the next day. I'm now going to start a political career in Europe, setting up a Holy Roman Empire to replace the European Commission."

Diary, page 20

## Refco pair get Liffe life bans

BY JASON NISSE

TWO former traders with Refco Overseas, one of the largest brokers on Liffe, are to be given life bans and the firm's former head of trading is to be given a year's ban in one of the biggest scandals to hit the futures and options market.

In total, five former Refco traders are to receive punishments from Liffe. The US-owned broker is also appealing against a fine imposed by Liffe, believed to be in the region of £1.2 million, over the scandal in which the traders allegedly bought futures and options contracts ahead of placing large deals for clients, a practice called front running.

The two traders receiving life bans are Malcolm Duke and Nick English. Paul Hunt, who resigned earlier this month as head of trading at Refco, receives a year's ban.

Two other traders, Mark Wilkinson — who also left Refco earlier this month — and Greg Bryce, have been handed fines.

The broker is now undergoing a shake-out after hiring David Campbell from Deutsche Morgan Grenfell as its new managing director.

## M&S to sell stores

BY FRASER NELSON

MARKS & SPENCER may sell part of its £4.5 billion shop portfolio in a radical change of strategy that could provide a £1 billion cash injection.

Peter Salisbury, chief executive, is considering selling the largest of its 290 stores and leasing them back at an agreed long-term rent. M&S

yesterday said that this is one of many options being examined in its strategic review.

The company said: "Sale and leaseback is quite a straightforward issue for any company to be looking at. But nothing has been decided yet, and nothing will be decided until the strategic review is complete."

M&S has the option of re-

stricting the sale to its 40 smallest stores, which could be worth about £200 million before leaseback agreements.

Traditionally, M&S has built and owned its own shops while its rivals usually rent from a landlord. It now has about £3.5 billion tied up in land and buildings and about £1 billion in fixtures, fittings and work in progress.

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